

DRAWER 11A TOWNS-LINCOLN INTEREST

ROCKPORT

71.20000-4-14



# Indiana Cities & Towns

## Rockport

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Bards Town August 29th 1812

Dear Sir, I am informed you have  
in your hands several Executions agt,  
the Estate of Philip Phillips will you  
let me know whether those execs  
are Lived on any of the Lands in  
the name of said Phillips and  
also inform me the day of sale  
and the amount of the Execution  
Costs &c and in whose name  
they are your friendly attention  
to this will Orlige yours &c

William Phillips

John Morgan Esq  
m Sheriff of Grayson  
Payor

John Morgan Postmaster  
Rockport  
Indiana

Received by Ernest F. Fox at the Post Office  
for my son Charles to forward to his  
Guru - friends - Dr. Blum,

Dear Sister this is to tell you we are  
all well - we had no letter from you since  
the one Mr. Stutterill brought us to  
hear from Oil Creek we have never heard  
there since William and the girls came h  
I have no news - the relating only we are  
little known as we scatter more than  
we was before Mr. Charles Wortham has  
moved to Nolin Margaret went with him  
to stay awhile he bought land a mile  
two below the Broad ford he has rented a  
place near it this summer as there is  
improvement on his land - William

We have a plen. house room and want  
you to come and down while this summer the  
Sickl part <sup>as many of the children</sup> as you can see go and John <sup>and</sup> John were aunt Louisa;  
Babe is begining to walk they would hardly know  
perhaps you have not heard of the loss our  
County has Sustained the Mill which was  
formerly Miller's on <sup>in</sup> was set on fire  
by some person together with all the carding  
and spinning factory which <sup>was</sup> nearly ready to put  
in operation - Jane and me is a spinning a  
little and weaving a little we have a Counter spin  
in the frame we work on that a little -  
Louisa sends her respects to you and the children  
I ad now more or remains your affectionate Sister

Mary Morgan

Elizabeth Ewing

N.B. enclosed is a <sup>map</sup> I wish you to  
find the first opportunity

Rockport, Indiana

August the 5th, 1822

Dear Polly & Beloved Wife

Thinking it a duty as well as my pleasure to write to you at every opportunity I therefore take my pen in hand to write you that I am well & the Drs tells me that they are generally busy in town.

John Pitchers child is sick with malaria fever & one or two of Conrod Broun's boys are sick with the same in the country there is a good dale of complaint in Squire Young's settlement & young Lamar's Settlement in particular. W. Perigo is dead & John Richardson is also dead. Richardson died with the flux & it is raging in that settlement I am told. John Lee starts tomorrow for Ky & I will send this to Hardinsburgh and have it maled. I sent a letter on Saturday last to you by the male as it went down But I expect you will get this first. I would be glad to see a letter from you. I got a house keeper this morning, it is the girl that lived at John Brouns. She Intends to sleep at Mrs. Cottons. I give her \$.50 cents a week & I intend for her to spin some cotton at her odd times. there are plenty of cucumbers, Eggplant & I have pulled the large water-mellon you talked about this is all I now recall respecting our domestic affairs worth naming at present. I will now give you an account of the mexico country.

Tuesday Aug. 6th

Augustine Yturbide was declared Emperor by a decree of the Mexican Congress of May 25.

The best account I can get the territory of Mexico is greater than that of the Russian empire, asia or the whole of the United States of America. Its population to be equal to that of Great Britten before the peace of Amens. Its revenue exceeding \$20,000,000. Its mines produce anually 23,000,000 in gold & silver, being half the amount of the whole produced of the precious metal from all the mines in the world. Its importation exceeds 20 million of Dollars Its exportation in agriculturial, manufacturing & mineral produce 16 millions about half the total exports & imports of Great Britten.

The metropolis of this large empire is discredited as superior to any city in the whole world with the exception of St. Petersburgh and London, all the ties between Mexico and Spain are now dissolved .The Roman religion is now established. The conduct of the Emperor as yet appears to be under a cloud & to some he pretends to take Washingtons example To others in his accepting the appointment of Emperor think he more likely to copy after Bonepart than after Washington. Yet he says he will resign & become a private citizen.

But the people may wonder if his successor, when he takes his  
orders ect will copy after Bonepart or Washington

I could write more But I am every minute  
all most interrupted as it is Election time, however I hope  
you are all well & will not forget to give me all the news as  
often as you can

Your affectionate husband & C

(signed) John Morgan

N.B

it is not exactly known But Lamar will be the Sheriff  
& J Broun the Commissioner & Richard Broun the Coroner who  
run against Gen Stattler But Edward's election is Doubtful.

JM

*What To See*  
*in*  
*Historic*  
**ROCKPORT**  
**INDIANA**



“THE BLUFF”

*Scenery Unexcelled*  
*Near the Scenes of*  
**LINCOLN'S BOYHOOD**



Good Roads

Good Water

Camps for Tourists

But the people may wonder if his successor, when he takes his  
orders ect will copy after Bonepart or Washington

I could write more But I am every minute  
all most interrupted as it is Election time, however I hope  
you are all well & will not forget to give me all the news as  
often as you can

Your affectionate husband & C

(signed) John Morgan

N.B

it is not exactly known But Lamar will be the Sheriff  
& J Broun the Commissioner & Richard Broun the Coroner who  
run against Gen Stattler But Edward's election is Doubtful.

JM

*What To See*  
*in*  
*Historic*  
**ROCKPORT**  
**INDIANA**



“THE BLUFF”

*Scenery Unexcelled*  
*Near the Scenes of*  
**LINCOLN'S BOYHOOD**



Good Roads

Good Water

Camps for Tourists

---

## MOTOR DISTANCES

### FROM ROCKPORT TO

Evansville, Indiana . . . . .	32
Evansville via Boonville, Ind. . . . .	50
Princeton, Ind. . . . .	74
Vincennes, Ind. . . . .	100
Terre Haute, Ind. . . . .	165
St. Louis, Mo. . . . .	220
Springfield, Ill. . . . .	335
Indianapolis, Ind. . . . .	175
Chicago, Ill. . . . .	360
French Lick, Ind. . . . .	65
Louisville, Ky. . . . .	110
Cincinnati, Ohio. . . . .	245
Owensboro, Ky. . . . .	10
Mammoth Cave, Ky. . . . .	150
Hodgensville, Ky. . . . .	180
Nashville, Tenn. . . . .	175
Chattanooga, Tenn. . . . .	301
Jacksonville, Fla. . . . .	786
Miami, Fla. . . . .	1161
Dayton, Ohio. . . . .	277
Columbus, Ohio. . . . .	346
Toledo, Ohio. . . . .	486
Fort Wayne, Ind. . . . .	296
South Bend, Ind. . . . .	310

There are good roads in and out of Rockport in every direction.

Extra good ferry service across the Ohio River.

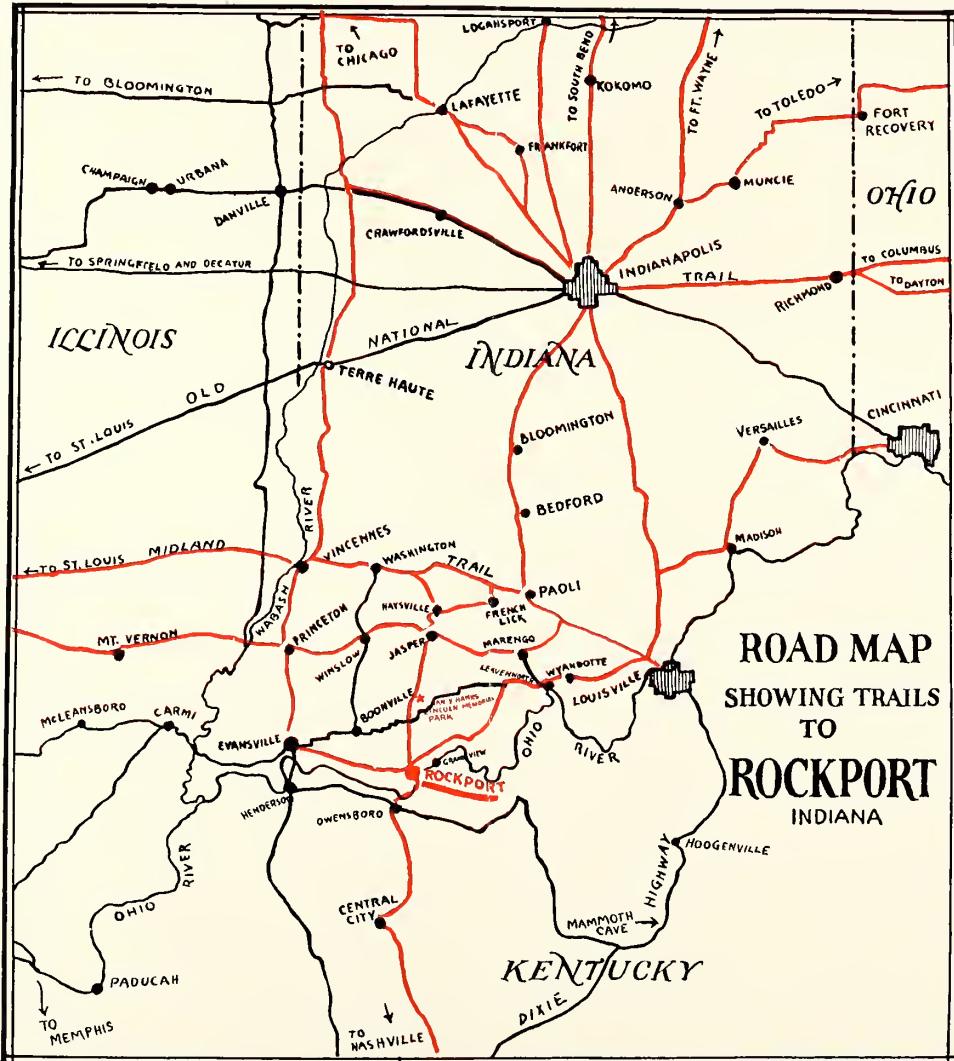
A 40 acre City Park with golf course, hotels, camp grounds, fresh water, and scenery unsurpassed for tourists.

Train, trolley, boat and bus connections in all directions. Further information gladly furnished by the .

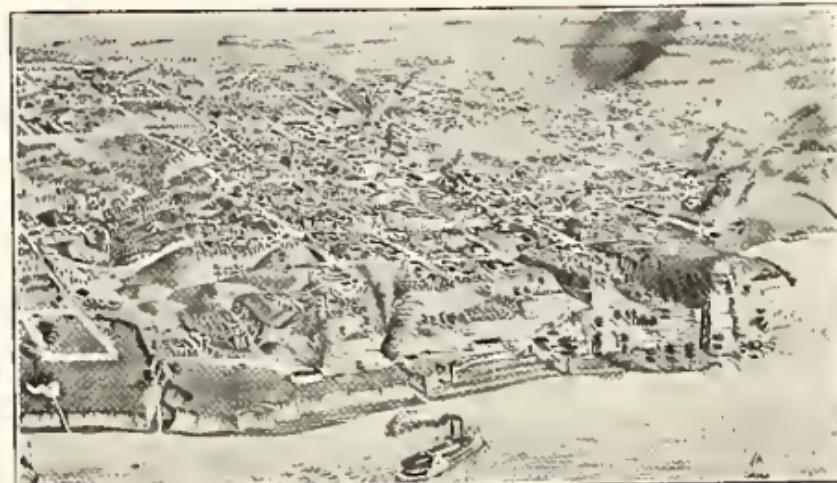
SPENCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ROCKPORT, INDIANA

(COMPILED BY REV. W. R. RINGS, PUB. DIR.)

---



# Rockport's Early History



"ROCKPORT IN 1881"

LONG years before the first Kentucky hunter gazed upon the rocky bluffs of "Hanging Rock", Shawnee, Miami, and Delaware Indians hunted bear, turkeys, and other wild game on this verdant spot. Taking back to their homes the story of the bluffs, these Kentucky hunters influenced early settlers to cross the rollicking Ohio into southern Indiana. Among the first to come was Daniel Grass, a native of Bardstown, Ky., who on May 9, 1807, purchased Section 26 of Ohio Township. Soon to follow were Azel Dorsey, first coroner; George Moffet, first teacher; Rev. James Naney, first preacher; John Pitcher, an early lawyer; John Morgan, first post master; Stephen P. Cissna, a doctor; Foster Vanzandt, first smithy; John Worrell, first tailor; John B. Greathouse, first tanner; Thomas Britton, James Gentry, and many others.

Before 1818 Rockport was known as "Hanging Rock" because of the huge cliff which extended over the river from one of the bluffs. In 1818 "Hanging Rock" was named Mt. Duvall in honor of William Duvall. Then later about 1820 after Mt. Duvall was designated as the county seat the name was changed to Rockport.

It is very strange that in those days, the town and its main street was located at the river bank below the bluffs while today it is safely located on top of the bluffs which give excellent views in many directions.

# Rocky Side Park



"THE CAVE"

**T**RADITION says that before 1807 when Daniel Grass became the first permanent settler, James Langford and his family made the cave (pictured above) their home for a winter. Nearby is a deep pit in which it is said pirate bands of robbers hid their loot which they stole from passing flatboats.

The river bank under the bluffs has been transformed by the city into the Rocky Side Park. Benches have been placed, a well of good water drilled, and an outdoor oven and eating house have been erected for the many tourists who visit the Park.

At one place a stairway has been built to a cleft about half way up the 100 foot bluff. Here are found comfortable benches from which one may have a panoramic view of the Beautiful Ohio for many miles upstream and of the excellent swimming beach on the Kentucky shore. Frequently river showboats tie up at this shore for evening performances.

Many artists have proclaimed the scenery here as the most beautiful to be found along the Ohio. When the clear nights of summer come and the southern moon rises lazily over the Kentucky shore, mirroring itself in a thousand silvery ripples, the scene is romantic and entrancing beyond description. It must be seen to be fully appreciated.

# The Flat Boat Landing



"WHERE LINCOLN LEFT FOR NEW ORLEANS"

**I**N a very real sense of the word, it may be said that the Emancipation Proclamation which President Lincoln issued in 1863 owes its origin to a flatboat trip which Lincoln made from Rockport. In 1828 Allen Gentry asked young Abe Lincoln if he would like to make a trip to New Orleans. Lincoln quickly assented. Two weeks were occupied in loading the boat with smoked meats, dressed hides, furs, tobacco, and other produce. During this time Lincoln stayed at the home of Sheriff Alfred Grass nearby.

Amid the farewells of friends, the boat pushed off on the spring waters and headed for New Orleans. While there, Lincoln had his first real contact with the evils of slavery as he watched slaves being sold on the auction block. He vowed that if he ever got the chance to hit that thing he would hit it hard, and he did in the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

This event was immortalized in a pageant given in 1926 on the spot and will be further memorialized in a spectacular pageant to be given in 1928 portraying the entire life of Lincoln in Indiana. With the rippling Ohio as the background, the landing furnishes a natural stage for the pageant, while abundant space nearby affords plenty of room for spectators.

# Lincoln's Visit in 1844



"THE OLD TAVERN"

WHEN Lincoln returned to Rockport in 1844 as a Clay elector, he remained over night in the old brick tavern pictured above and now known as the Sargeant House. He was met by William Jones and asked to make a speech to which he replied that he would that evening in the court house if they would come to hear him.

Across the street from this old tavern is Spencer County's magnificent court house, the fifth in the history of the county. The first court house, a log cabin, was erected in 1818; the second a brick structure, was finished in 1822 and was destroyed by fire in 1833. A third court house was erected in 1838 and a fourth in 1865. This stood until 1919 when the present one was erected.

Near the same tavern are the walls of a large tobacco warehouse and other famous buildings. From the windows of this hotel, Lincoln could look across the court house lawn to the office of John Pitcher, an early lawyer, from whose library he had as a youth borrowed many books, walking from his home seventeen miles away and back again in a single evening. In the court house is also found a museum with interesting relics of early days.

# Nancy Hanks Lincoln



"THE GRAVE AT LINCOLN CITY"

WITHIN a half hour motor trip of Rockport is located the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, and the former family home. Plans are now in process for the erection of a million dollar shrine on this spot under the direction of the Indiana Lincoln Union.

Early in 1816 Thomas Lincoln moved his little family from the valleys of Kentucky to the wilds of Indiana. The first cabin, a three-sided one, was erected near what is now known as Lincoln City. Later a four-sided cabin was built. A marker now marks the spot.

About three years later, the mother of "Abe" Lincoln died and the body was tenderly carried by father and son to the top of a knoll about one half mile away. Here, without any ceremony save the shedding of tears, the remains were hidden from earthly view.

In 1879 Mr. Peter Studebaker, an admirer of Lincoln, learned that the grave was yet unmarked. He soon erected the first monument, and later an additional monument was erected by loving citizens. The Park is the mecca of thousands of tourists each year, and is easily reached on hard surfaced roads from Rockport. The entire county abounds in Lincoln traditions and each spot is easily accessible from Rockport as a starting point.

# Reputable Firms

---



## RESTAURANTS

Wetzel's Cafe, Main Street.

## GARAGES

Parsley Brothers, Elm Street.

M & P Garage, Mill Street.

## DRUGS

T. C. Basye, Main Street.

## TRAVELLERS' SERVICE

The Rockport Ferry, End Main Street.

Rockport Oil Co., Linco Products.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Rockport Water Works Company.

Underhill Brick & Tile Company.

Thompson Youngblood Hdwe & Lumber Co.

Pure Ice and Ice Cream Company.

The C. W. Halbruge Co., Main Street.

L. M. John Co., Main Street.

P. H. Axtom, Main Street.

J. A. Laird, County Auditor.

*The above firms have an established reputation for honesty, fair prices and courteous service.*

---

# A LINCOLN PAGEANT

To Be Staged At Rockyside Park July 4, 1928, by Spencer County People Under Auspices of Spencer Co. Historical Society.

## AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

The pageant, "When Lincoln Went Flatboating from Rockport," which was prepared by Mrs. Bess Ehrmann and presented by a company at Rockyside Park in the autumn of 1926, attracted state wide attention and was taken up by the Indiana Lincoln Memorial Association which was created by act of the 1923 legislature.

L. N. Hines, who is president of this association, as well as being president of the Indiana State Normal at Terre Haute, made a special trip here early last year and interviewed a number of people with a view of making the Lincoln pageant a state affair rather than a local affair.

He said that it was the wish of the association that Spencer county put on the pageant in a larger way, that the state association would stay in the background but would lend every aid possible to make the move one of the biggest successes ever staged and Mrs. Bess Ehrmann was requested to work out a pageant to be put on at a later date.

A pageant committee composed of T. C. Basye, president, Mrs. Bess Ehrmann, Mrs. Jessie Heuring, Mrs. Grace Pattie, Robert Miller and Winn S. Shrode was appointed and this committee has had frequent meetings to discuss plans.

A meeting of the committee was held in the court house last Monday afternoon and after various discussions it was decided to put the pageant on each two years and the staging will be at Rockyside Park July 4, 1928. Two performances will be given, one in the afternoon and the other at night.

The pageant will be staged under the auspices of the Spencer County Historical Society. It will deal chiefly with the life of the Lincolns in Spencer county from 1816 to 1831. All parts of the county will be represented in the pageant. Certain communities will be asked to put on particular episodes in the boyhood life of Lincoln. It will take many characters to stage the different events and much enthusiasm over the coming event has already been shown.

The centennial pageant put on here on July 4, 1916, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the admission of Indiana as a state in the Federal union was a big event and is still vivid in the minds of all who attended but this event promises to climax that production.

## WOMAN'S CLUB GUEST DAY

The Rockport Woman's Club held its guest day meeting Thursday afternoon at the Washington school building, having the largest attendance in the history of the club. After the business session Mrs. Ehrmann, the president, turned the meeting over to Mrs. C. W. Halbruge and Mrs. K. C. Atchison, the program leaders. It being a pioneer program the room was decorated with old fashioned table covers and flowers and many of the club members and guests were arrayed in pioneer dresses.

Several of the dresses had a very interesting history and brought to mind memories of other days. Others, while in pioneer style, were not so antique. One lady when asked to give the history of her dress which looked like an old family heirloom, said she bought it at Halbruge's store day before yesterday.

Mrs. Halbruge made a few opening remarks on Spencer county's pioneer families and introduced George Honig, of Evansville, a descendant of one of these families. Mr. Honig gave a splendid talk on Abraham Lincoln and Spencer county history. He suggested that the city of Rockport should make a park out in the old graveyard where Daniel Grass and other Spencer county settlers are buried. He suggested that the original town of Rockport be rebuilt out there using the log cabins which are going to ruin all over the county. This would bring sightseers from all over the country into Rockport.

Mrs. Charles Salm, dressed in pioneer costume and wearing an old red shawl, sang a very beautiful song, "My Mother's Old Red Shawl." Mrs. W. C. Mason accompanied her on the piano. Mrs. Bernard Wohler then sang a very pretty old time selection, "O, Susannah", with banjo accompaniment. Miss Lucile Karnes sang a beautiful old fashioned song, "Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party." She was accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Prentice Thurman. Mrs. George Honig played a beautiful piano solo. Taylor Basye gave a short talk on the Lincoln Memorial. Prizes were awarded Miss Elizabeth Bullock and Mrs. Bess Ehrmann for the two most typical pioneer costumes.

Out of town guests were: Mrs. Nancy Allen and Mrs. Ed Gunther, of Owensboro; Mrs. Lukeman, of Evansville; Misses Irene Woolfolk and Mary Gabbert, of Grandview; Mrs. Anna Cutler, of Tacoma, Wash.; Mrs. A. J. Wedeking, of Dale.

Refreshments of doughnuts and coffee were served by the refreshment committee. *Journal 10-21-27*

T HAS remained for one of south-western Indiana's gifted women to visualize the dramatic possibilities latent in a certain phase of "the Lincoln Inquiry," hitherto overlooked upon stage or screen, so that people of The Pocket will have the opportunity this month to witness an impressive historical and symbolical pageant in a setting whose literal accuracy of place enhances its rare natural beauty.

In Rockyside Park at Rockport, lying between the city's frowning bluffs at one hand and the Ohio's broad stream at the other, the darkening twilight hours of Thursday, September 16, will see unfolded a picturesque story; conceived, written and directed by Mrs. Calder Ehrmann (Bess V. Hicks), whose tireless activity has never spared itself in the cultural uplift of her native town. "When Lincoln Went Flatboating From Rockport," is the formal title of this latest work from Mrs. Ehrmann's fluent pen, yet as a 'leit motif' underlying the whole one catches the nobler vision of its creator, "Freedom's Dawn in Lincoln's Heart."

The pageant will be presented at the very spot of Rockport's original "lower landing" from whence young Abraham Lincoln fared forth abroad. James Gentry's produce-laden flatboat toward "Orleans," where he was first to see human beings sold as slaves in open market, an incident awakening his belief in Abolition; a creed which touched its zenith in his Emancipation Proclamation of 1862. This momentous document was signed, it will be recalled, on September 22 of that year, making the Rockport pageant somewhat of an anniversary celebration, set forward one week to borrow the effective illumination of a full moon that will rise from behind Kentucky's distant horizon.

"The pageant is written to meet the requirements of a large audience," explains Mrs. Ehrmann, "so employs symbolism, aiming at pictorial effect, and the five parts into which it is divided are presented for the most part in pantomime." As its prelude, two children at play find themselves near the old lower landing at Rockport. One child tells the other things her grandfather told her concerning this spot; she wishes that she could see some of the people and some of the happenings of that long-ago time. She sits down to muse, while the other child wanders away. The Sand-Man comes and the child falls asleep. Soon the Dream-Fairies come and summon the Spirit of History, who gives the prologue, then calls forth patriotic figures, forces of nature, and scenes from the past.

This "Prologue" (to be recited by Mrs. J. C. Glackinan) deserves complete presentation here, as follows: "Deep from the long-buried Past of your fathers' fathers, Deep from the dim, misty silence of ages forgotten, Summoned am I to the shore of the winding Ohio, To tell you a story, fragrant with names of your loved ones,— A pioneer story,—the tale of the old Lower Landing.

I.

"When the music of water alone was heard through the forest, Here on this bank were beached the canoes of the Indians; Here, when the Indians had vanished in ominous silence, Our forefathers fashioned their flatboats crude and unwieldy; Toiled with a song on their lips and a gun by their side; Thinking, dreaming of faraway Orleans, yet mindful of pioneer dangers,—wild beasts that lurked in the bushes.

Where the Mississippi calls, Past house-boats, flatboats, and proud white steamboats. Sand-bars, rocky bluffs and tinkling waterfalls.

"Up—up the winding waterway, A thousand miles to Rockport; Riding in a steamer Through the Mississippi waves. Visioning Frenchmen, Spaniards and soft-voiced Creoles; Sugar-cane, cotton fields and handcuffed slaves.

III

"The historic voyage is ended. The old Lower Landing. Forever is hallowed, where feet of our ancestors trod; Reflecting not only the glory that came to Abe Lincoln. This port—now forsaken for practical purpose—harks Back to the gay panorama of river-town life; Back to years when the calliope played of an evening And roustabouts sang as their barges gilded down stream.

"So come! Let us conjure the Past of this Pioneer People; Laugh with the merry, weep with the ones who shed tears. I call for your pleasure the forces of Nature, and second, An historic people. Listen! Enjoy and learn, While twilight descends and the moon rises over the river, And on-coming night gently gives benediction."

\* \* \*

In the first episode of the pageant proper, young girls in flowing robes impersonate the Spirits of the Ohio, the woodland nymphs of the Forest, the Flowers; the River Fog, and the Sun, (this last presented by Miss Lucille Richards in an interpretive dance.) "The Passing of the Years" is the keynote of the second episode, done in processional form within different periods in Rockport's history are shown by groups of people in costumes of the time.

Mrs. Ehrmann's mastery of the playwright's technique asserts itself in the always crucial "third act," whereby so many dramatic productions stand or fall. Episode 3 introduces the loading of the Gentry flatboat in 1828, showing James Gentry and Allen Gentry, father and son, with their helpers, among whom is the outstanding figure of the 19-year-old oarsman "Abe" Lincoln, already manly in development through rail-splitting near Gentryville and operating the Anderson creek ferry. In the fourth episode, farewells are exchanged between the departing voyages and their assembled friends and relatives. Some of the crowd indulge in the old-time folk dance of "Weevly Wheat," and the flatboat is seen leaving on its thousand-mile journey.

The fifth episode shifts to the presidential campaign of 1844, when Lincoln the Man comes back to the old county seat. His lifelong friend, Colonel William Jones, introduces him, announcing that Lincoln will now address the people on the political issues of the day. Lincoln inquires "By what authority do you say this?" Colonel Jones strikes his own chest with his hand and replies "By this authority!" (This incident is well verified, ED.) Lincoln's face lights up with one of his rare smiles and he acknowledges the popular applause, but invites them to come that night, instead, to the Court House where he will make them a speech.

As a finale appears Columbia, supported by Liberty and Justice, attended by color-nymphs red with

## A HOOSIER LIFE BY KATE M.

Mention was made in this column a few days ago of the recent discovery that the original name of Rockport, Ind., was Mt. Duval. The story of the discovery of this is told by Mrs. Calder Ehrman of Rockport, president of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society. Mrs. Ehrman was endeavoring to learn the names of the first five postmasters of Rockport, in order to piece out a bit of historical research. Goodspeed's history of Warrick, Spencer and Perry counties gave the name of the first postmaster as Alexander Britton. Other names were given by families who claimed the distinction for some member of the family. At last a letter from the present postmaster to the assistant postmaster general brought the names of the first five postmasters, and with it the information that the first official name of the town was Mt. Duval. John Morgan was the first postmaster, and a letter postmarked 1821, in the possession of his granddaughter is postmarked Mt. Duval. He held office until 1823, and by that time the name of the town had been changed to Rockport. It is interesting to note that John Pitcher, a brilliant lawyer and a friend of Abraham Lincoln, served as postmaster from 1827 until 1832.

## 2,000 SEE ROCKPORT LINCOLN MARKER UNVEILED BY WOMEN

Business and Professional Club Provides Tablet Which Shows Where Civil War President Was Guest as Clay Elector In 1844—Residents Tell of Visit.

[Special to The Indianapolis News]

ROCKPORT, Ind., October 29.—The unveiling of the Lincoln marker, the first historical marker in Rockport, was observed Thursday. Two thousand persons attended. The marker was provided by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Rockport. Mrs. M. Weil directed the program. Pupils of the city schools attended in a body and the business houses were closed. The marker designated the house in which Abraham Lincoln was a guest when he was a Clay elector.

Mrs. Mina Cook, president of the club, made the dedicatory speech. Dorothy Rae Shrode, age nine, unveiled the marker and Marlen F. Katz, age seven, was flag bearer.

The inscription on the marker reads: "Rockport Tavern, built 1832, where Abraham Lincoln, when a Clay elector, was a guest in 1844. Sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club, of Rockport, October 28, 1926."

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrman gave a description of Lincoln's appearance at the time of the visit. "When Lincoln was a Clay elector he made a trip to Spencer county, his old home, the first trip since he left it for Illinois fourteen years before," Mrs. Ehrman said. "Among the speeches he made while here in the interest of the Whig candidate, was one in the Courthouse in Rockport." J. L. Stewart, one of the oldest native residents of Rockport, was an errand boy at the Sargent tavern when Lincoln stayed there and remembers the visit well.

"It was along in the early fall when Lincoln came to town, riding through from Illinois horseback, stopping in the upper part of the county before reaching Rockport," Mr. Stewart said. "I remember very well my first sight of him. He had on a brownish colored suit of clothes and an old-fashioned fur cap. Of course he had not become famous then, but attracted attention.

"The afternoon of the day he was here he spoke in the old brick Courthouse that stood in the corner of the yard, where the cannon is now. There was a good-sized crowd to hear him. I was just a boy, but went along with the rest

of the people to the speaking. I recollect that he urged the men to vote for Clay and protection. The next day he rode away."

Albert J. Wedeking, of Dale, and T. V. Pruitt, superintendent of the Rockport schools, made short talks.

This Business and Professional Women's Club is leading in the movement to have a Lincoln statue to cost not less than \$5,000, erected on the Spencer county Courthouse lawn. As Lincoln spent fourteen years of his life and the formative years in Spencer county, the club members think Indiana should have a statue as well as other states in which he lived.

## LINCOLN MAKES FIRST TRIP BY BOAT DOWN OHIO

Southern Indiana Ferryman  
Receives Deep Impressions of Life

That great lane of traffic, the Ohio river, "La Belle Riviere," as the Frenchmen called it, was an impressive factor in the life of the boy Lincoln.

He was in the 'teen age, 17 or 18, when he started working on the farm of James Taylor at the mouth of Anderson creek. Besides plowing and doing heavy chores, Abe ran the ferryboat across the river.

He saw a veritable pageant of life cross in front of him here—hunters, teachers, peddlers, rivermen, gamblers, politicians—and from every one of them, Abe was able to pick some information to feed his hunger for knowledge of the world.

Slowly and haughtily, steamboats sailed past on their way from Pittsburgh to New Orleans, which was around a 20-day passage. Flat-boats, trading boats, houseboats, scows—all kinds and conditions of river craft crept past Anderson's creek in those days, and the young ferryman found in the life of every one of them something new and intensely interesting. The Ohio was then one of the main arteries of America's new and pulsing civilization.

### Builds Boat

When he was 18, Abe was building himself a light flatboat—he cut down the trees, hewed the planks, pegged and fastened them together for an all wood boat.

Three years passed, and James Gentry, who owned more property in the Pigeon creek area than anyone else, and had an Ohio river landing besides, kept an eye on the big, stout ferryman, and thought he would be a good one to take his produce down the river.

With a load of bacon, potatoes, flour meal and other stuff he started down the Ohio in the early spring of 1828. Gentry's son Allen was with Abe.

They poled and floated down the river past Evansville—past Cave-in-Rock on the Illinois shore—past the shoals, islands, sandbars that were rivermen's bane. So they went, four to six miles an hour, until they arrived at the "sugar coast" below Baton Rouge.

### Fights Negroes

There Abe had a fight with seven negroes trying to steal the cargo and received a gash over the eye, which left a permanent scar.

They went on and traded at New Orleans. Then the two headed back for the Little Pigeon creek in Indiana, taking with them whatever cotton, tobacco or sugar they had received in trade.

# ROCKPORT PAGEANT TO DEPICT LIFE OF LINCOLN IN INDIANA

[Special to The Indianapolis News] 1926

ROCKPORT, Ind., September 4.—"When Lincoln Went Flatboating From Rockport" is the title of a pageant written by Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, of this city, and which will be given at Rocky Side park the evening of September 16. In 1828 Abraham Lincoln, a boy of nineteen, came from his country home, the farm of his father, Thomas Lincoln, which farm is now a part of Lincoln City, and remained overnight at the home of Allen Gentry, who lived at Rockport and who made regular flatboat trips to New Orleans. Abraham Lincoln accompanied Gentry to New Orleans. The flatboat was loaded with bacon, ham and hides, the usual products.

It was on this trip that Lincoln saw slaves tied to a post and whipped, and with the idea of living in a free country as he lived in Indiana, Lincoln began the study of the slave question.

## Landing Is Pageant Site.

Mrs. Ehrmann has arranged to have the descendants of the Gentry family that live in and near Rockport take part in the pageant. The landing, long abandoned, but always used by the Gentrys and the one from which Lincoln left Rockport in the Gentry flatboat will be the site of the pageant.

The pageant is divided into five parts as follows:

First Part—"The Spirit of Ohio," Mrs. J. C. Glackman; "Rockport," Miss Marguerite Roberts; "Columbia," Mrs. Helen Gentry Trobaugh; "Liberty," Miss Helen Barnett; "Justice," Mrs. Granade Axton; "The Sun," Miss Lucile Richards; "Children of Today," Dorothy Ray Shrode and Richard Savage. The children will play and fall asleep and dream of seeing the past and present history of Rockport and when she awakens Dorothy will tell about her dream. The river, fox, woods and flowers will be represented by a group of forty dancers.

Second Part—The different periods of Rockport history, showing the costumes of the times. This part will be presented by the Eastern Star, Lutheran Young People's Society, Epworth League of the Trinity M. E. church, Presbyterian Sunday School, Woman's Club, Business and Professional Women's Club and the American Legion.

Third Part—Loading of the flatboat. Abraham Lincoln, as oarsman, will be represented by Theodore Stormer. The descendants of the Gentry family will have parts in this scene.

Fourth Part—Farewell from the family and friends of the Gentrys.

Fifth Part—Lincoln's return to Rockport in 1828 as a Clay elector. William Morris, Sr., will represent Abraham Lincoln as he appeared at the time and the Needlecraft Club will take part in the episode. J. T. Hodges will represent Colonel William Jones, who on the occasion introduced Lincoln to the audience when Lincoln made an address.

The wars will be symbolically represented—Mexican war, Mrs. Guy H. Walker; civil war, Mrs. Mina Cook; Spanish-

American war, Mrs. T. V. Pruitt, and world war, the American Legion.

Finale—Columbia, Liberty, Justice returns. All the actors will assemble in the closing tableau.

## To Portray Indiana Life.

The pageant will be mostly in pantomime and tableaux. Episodes of historical events of Abraham Lincoln's life in Spencer county will be portrayed. Lincoln lived nine years in Spencer county. They were his formative years and the pageant will vividly portray important events of this time.

The pageant is fostered by the Rocky Side park board, and different organizations and citizens of Rockport are taking a part in the production.

Mrs. Glackman will give the prologue. Miss Lucile Richards will assist Mrs. Ehrmann in staging the symbolical scenes and give a solo dance. Mrs. Charles H. Salm is director of music; I. Parsley, pageant master, and the Rev. George F. McNaughton, pageant herald. The Rockport Band will provide music. Seats will be erected on a lawn facing the landing, and a flatboat will be used on the river.

# Flatboat, Days of Lincoln's Youth Will Be Depicted in Big Pageant at Rockport

(EDITOR'S NOTE:—In The Pocket Periscope of this issue, history in detail is presented which explains the era about which this pageant was written.) 1926

ROCKPORT, Sept. 4.—Rugged history of Abraham Lincoln's youth in Spencer county, and his trip from this city to New Orleans by flatboat, will be developed in a splendid pageant here on September 16.

Written by Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, the scenes will depict every phase of young Lincoln's life in Indiana. The proceeds of the presentation are to be used in building a large dining room at Rocky Side park where the pageant is to be given.

Descendants of Rockport men who were closely associated with young Lincoln, will appear in the pageant, it has been announced by Mrs. Ehrmann. Allen Gentry on whose flatboat the Civil war president went to New Orleans, was one of the early settlers of Rockport and many of his kinsmen living here now are to take part.

## To Use Old Landing

Gentry's boat, history has it, was loaded with ham, bacon and hides and when the cargo was finally deposited on the levees of New Orleans, young Lincoln went "sightseeing." It was then that he saw his first slave market and the blacks whipped at a post. The pageant will endeavor to show this as the root to his emancipation proclamation and his fight for the freedom of the southern negro.

The landing from which the Emancipator left Rockport, long out of use by river boats, will be used in the pageant. Here it is announced, the night scenes will be given. Natural beauty of the spot will enhance the scenes, Mrs. Ehrmann declares.

The pageant-story will be divided into five parts. They follow:

1. "The Spirit of History" by Mrs. J. C. Glackman, as the prologue. Miss Marguerite Roberts will appear as "Rockport"; Mrs. Helen Gentry Trobaugh as "Columbia"; Mrs. Helen Barnett as "Liberty," and Mrs. Granade Axton as "Justice."

## Colorful Dance Scene

In this scene, Miss Lucile Richards as "The Sun" will give a solo dance, following which "Children of Today" will be presented by Dorothy Ray Shrode and Richard Savage. There will be a dream, bringing together history of Rockport, now and of the past. Forty dancers will also take part.

2. Passing of the years, development of events, will be shown in costume. The Eastern Star; Luth-

eran Young People's society; Epworth League of the Methodist church; Presbyterian Sunday school; Woman's club; Business and Professional Woman's club, and the American Legion.

3. Loading the flatboat on which young Lincoln made the trip, with him at the oars. Theodore Stormer will play the part of Lincoln, with descendants of the Gentry family as others in this scene.

4. Farewell from the family and friends of Allen Gentry and the youth Lincoln.

## To Impersonate Lincoln

5. Lincoln's return to Rockport in 1834 as a Clay elector. William Morris, Sr., will represent Lincoln as he appeared then—a politician and a man of the world. The Needlecraft club will take part. J. T. Hodges will represent Col. William Jones who on this occasion introduced Lincoln to the Rockport audience.

The wars will be symbolically depicted. Mrs. Guy H. Walker will represent the Mexican war; Mrs. Mina Cook, the Civil war; Mrs. T. V. Pruitt, the Spanish-American war, and ex-soldiers and members of the American Legion, the World war.

Finale will show the return of Columbia, Liberty and Justice. Nymphs in the colors of red, white and blue, will sing "Columbia, the Gem of the

Ocean," Then the whole cast will assemble in a giant tableau.

# Claims One of State's Oldest Postoffices

BOONVILLE, Ind., April 28.—One of the oldest postoffices in the state is located here. The government established the branch in Boonville on Jan. 8, 1820, the first postmaster being David S. Smith.

Thirty-one postmasters have conducted the postoffice since its inception, and five of them are living at this time. Including the present postmaster, James A. Miller, they are: Jacob B. Ashley, Jasper H. Thornburgh, William L. Bryan and Jacob Eifler.

The late Senator James A. Hemenway was a clerk in the local postoffice from 1871 to 1878, when his father, William J. L. Hemen-

way, was postmaster.

Old timers in the county recall the stirring days of the Civil war, when the only news of activities would be from papers weeks old. The postmaster would stand in front of the office and read the news to citizens gathered about him.

Today the Boonville postoffice handles a vast amount of mail. Ten rural carriers leave the office daily. The Boonville Business Men's association is at present trying to secure a new federal building and Congressman Harry E. Rowbottom is supporting the move.

## 'City of Memories' Also Has Modern Side

New Harmony Is Not Resting on Glories of a Past Age

*Evansville Press 4-29-15*

NEW HARMONY, Ind., April 28.—The 20th century with its restlessness age and ever-changing mode of life will never succeed to take on this historic town the stateliness it inherited from its founders, the Rappites and Owenites, visionaries both in spiritual life and thought.

New Harmony will remain the same. That spirit of nobler living under idyllic conditions incul-

cated by the men and women, who brought culture to this farthest western settlement in the earliest days of Indiana, is in the air.

As in the dim days of our state's history when the "ship of knowledge" came down the Ohio and up the Wabash river to land at New Harmony its load of scientists, artisans and scholars, so to this day, author, scribe, sage and

statesman make their pilgrimage to this Posey county town to spend a few days at the shrine where the first seeds of progress had been planted in the wilderness.

New Harmony has modernized itself without losing the quaint trace of its original pattern. Likewise have its people adopted modern ways as readily as any other American city, without sacrificing the inheritance of its founders on the altar of modernism.

New Harmony today is just as modern as any of its neighbors. Its schools and public enterprises are of the highest type. Its popu-

lation is 1250.

Its citizens are tolerant in spirit. Broadness of view is the town's virtue. New Harmony had the first woman's clubs in the U. S.

Splendid farms in the most fertile section of southern Indiana are the fruit of unstinted labor of its early pioneers.

New Harmony has four churches: Johnson Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. E. A. Robertson; St. Stephens Episcopal church, Rev. Charles H. McKnight; General Baptist church, Rev. R. O. Leach, and the New Harmony Catholic church, Rev. H. Hunger.

## YOUNG ABE SAW SUN PUBLISHED

Vincennes Paper Was First in Indiana

*Evansville Press 4-29-15*

At the time that the Lincoln family was moving from its Indiana home in Spencer county to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1830, Abraham Lincoln, then a youth of 11, was deeply interested in the printing business as he observed it the first time in the office of the "Western Sun" at Vincennes.

Abe Lincoln was looking at the first newspaper ever printed in Indiana. The Western Sun was established by Elihu Stout, who brought his supplies on pack horses from Frankfort, Ky. The first issue appeared as "The Indiana Gazette" on July 31, 1804.

The plant was later destroyed by fire, and when reissued took the name of the "Western Sun." The paper is still published under the name of "The Vincennes Sun," having been in existence for 119 years. The daily edition was started in 1879.

## RECALL LINCOLN SPEECH

Lore on Honest Abe Thick in Spencer County

### Special Correspondence

ROCKPORT, Ind., April 28.—Records of a speech made at Rockport by Abraham Lincoln have been preserved and are one of many Lincoln relics to be found in Spencer county.

At the age of 17 Lincoln was operating the ferry at Anderson Creek Landing. Legend has it in this region that he used to walk from Lincoln City to Rockport and borrow books from Lawyer Hohn Pitcher.

## Spencer County's "Capital"

Is on Bluff Overlooking Ohio River

*Evansville Press 4-29-15*

ROCKPORT, Ind., April 28.—Rockport, the "Bluff City," picturesque county seat of Spencer county on the Ohio river, is one of the oldest cities in southern Indiana.

Situated on natural bluffs overlooking the Ohio river and offering a beautiful view of the blue grass state across the river, its citizens enjoy the sense of living in a well-protected castle protected from the majestic stream sweeping past.

Rockport was settled in 1812 and was first known to early settlers as "Hanging Rock." The name was derived from a gigantic rock projection which overhung the river. The hanging rock has long since disappeared in the Ohio.

### Change Name

In 1818 the name of the settlement was changed to Mt. Duval in honor of William Duvall, friend of Daniel Grass, Rockport's first landowner. Later still the name of Rockport was selected.

Rockport is the county seat of one of the best agricultural counties in the state. The county pays much attention to livestock and is backing an active livestock shippers' association.

## BE TOLD YARNS AT GENTRYVILLE

Famous Emancipator Heard Jokes There

*Evansville Press 4-29-15*

GENTRYVILLE, Ind., April 28.—Many of the boyhood days of Abe Lincoln were spent in this little town, for it is but three miles from Lincoln City.

In a general store here the young Lincoln and his parents did most of their trading, and undoubtedly Abe picked up many of his humorous stories while loitering 'round the store. Later, these stories relieved the strain of the resident's war cabinet.

Today Gentryville has a population of about 350. It is on a direct route between Evansville and French Lick and is consequently visited by many tourists and Lincoln admirers during the summer months.

# Early Life of Lincoln Connected With Troy

TROY, Ind., April 28.—This community is closely linked with the early history of Abraham Lincoln. It was from the mouth of Anderson creek that the ferry on which the martyr president was helper, crossed the Ohio river.

Abraham Lincoln worked for James Taylor and James McDaniel. The latter deeded 120 acres of land, on which Troy now stands, with the proviso that the Perry county seat should be located at Troy.

Lots 27, 28, 29, 36, 37 and 38 were reserved for the courthouse square. First court of the county was held at the home of James McDaniel on lot 27, where the present home of William Burke now stands.

Troy has a population of 750. The town's main industries are the Troy Chair factory, tobacco factory, the Sand Ridge Poultry farm and hatchery of Sidney D. Huff with a capacity of 35,000 chicks, and the Fulton hatchery of P. B. Feldpausch with a 15,000-chick capacity.

Forty students attend the Troy high school. The public school

has 80 and St. Pius Catholic school 65 pupils.

More than half of the population are members of St. Pius church, built in 1883, Rev. Father Edward J. Bauer, pastor. The balance is divided among the following congregations: Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. Arthur Brinklow, who is also pastor of the Tobinsport church; Christian church, Rev. Jefferson Pannet; Evangelical Lutheran church, Rev. Zabel and the Baptist church, without a resident minister.

## ROCKPORT WAS IMPORTANT IN LINCOLN'S LIFE

### Came to Southern Indiana Town to Borrow Books

#### When a Boy

Special Correspondence  
ROCKPORT, Ind., April 28.—The Spencer county seat is the only Indiana town definitely linked with the early youth of Abraham Lincoln. It was to Rockport that the tall, serious minded, youthful railsplitter trudged thru Spencer county mud and dust to borrow books, the foundation of his self-education.

It was from Rockport that Lincoln, a youth of 19, left on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans, where he first saw the evil of slavery, saw human beings put upon the block and sold as chattel. It was the lasting impression received on this trip that caused him, when he arrived at the presidency, to take such an unrelenting attitude toward slavery.

The contrast of his pioneer days spent in pleasant hills and fertile valleys of Spencer county, where free-born Americans tilled the soil, and his days at the slave mart in New Orleans was expressed by Lincoln on his return to Allen Gentry, grandfather of Lewis Gentry, local resident, in these words: "If I ever have a chance to hit that thing, I will hit it and hit it hard."

Lincoln's education, his moral principles, his love for truth and honesty and his kindness to all were inculcated in his life on the Lincoln homestead in Spencer county.

Lincoln visited Rockport again in 1844 and addressed the people on the political issues of the day. It was then he spent a night as a guest at the "Sargeant" house on the bluff. A marker has been placed near this house, noting this place as one of the historical spots in Rockport.

# BOONVILLE HAS 110TH BIRTHDAY IN TWO WEEKS

## County Seat of Warrick Has Population of 5000

BOONVILLE, Ind., April 28.—Boonville, county seat of Warrick, has a population of over 5000 people. Its elevation is 383 feet above sea level, and its official birthday dates from May 15, 1818, making it 110 years old. The town was given the name "Boonville" in honor of Jesse Boon, father of Ratliff Boon, in acknowledgement of liberal donations of land he had offered the commissioners prospecting for a townsite.

The first town lots were offered for sale at public auction June 4 to 6, 1818, under the direction of John Hargrave, county agent. Fifty-six lots brought \$3057.75.

Boonville was a town of log cabins situated on the hill in the center of the town, where the present courthouse now stands. Wolves were wont to annoy the pioneers at night by their howling in close proximity to the village.

#### Log Courthouse

The first court was held in a rudely constructed log building near the present public square. This house was inadequate and the construction of a brick courthouse 35 feet square was ordered, but this order was never carried out. A frame building was constructed and used for many years.

By 1830 the population of Boonville was 87. In 1836 the construction of a brick courthouse 40 feet square and two stories high was finished.

Boonville today

## NAMED AFTER PIONEER

### Town Christened in Honor of Robert Dale Owen

DALE, Ind., April 28.—Robert Dale Owen, famous pioneer of New Harmony, is responsible for the name of this town of 300 people. The town was laid out in 1843 and was named Elizabeth. In 1866, upon a petition of its citizens, the name was changed to Dale, in honor of Robert Dale Owen, then in congress.

#### Founded in 1818

Special Correspondence  
ROCKPORT, Ind., April 28.—W. R. Hymes founded Rockport in 1818. Daniel Grass made the first land purchase on the site of the city. Its population today is about 2700.

## LINCOLN PAGEANT COMMITTEE

Issues an Open Letter to the Citizens of Spencer County.

Grant 1927-1928, 5-10-28

It is the desire of the Lincoln Pageant Committee that all Spencer county citizens should understand fully the plans for the biennial pageant which is to be given by the Spencer County Historical Society under the auspices of the Indiana Lincoln Memorial Association on July 4th, 1928, the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's flatboat trip to New Orleans with Allen Gentry.

It is the hope of this committee that when the plans are understood every citizen of our county will feel it his or her patriotic duty to do all in their power to assist in this production. If properly carried on this event given every two years will bring glory to our county and benefit every town and community in the county by bringing pilgrims from all over the world to Lincoln City to view the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and the site of the Lincoln home, then a tour of the county where Abraham Lincoln lived for fourteen formative years of his life, and attendance at the pageant production which portrays the life of the Lincolns in Spencer county. The Spencer County Historical Society and the Pageant Committee want the public to know the great cost of putting on this production and what shall be done with any money left after all expenses are paid.

In order to seat the crowd of spectators comfortably and well it will cost not less than \$500 to erect new bleachers that are strong and well built. It is hoped to build seats for 2,300 people. These bleachers, after being used this year, will be stored at the Fair Grounds Building for future performances, so that the seating expense will not have to be borne again, only the cost of putting them up each time.

Properties that have to be arranged for are: A proscenium arch, electric lighting for the night performance, old fashioned ferry boat, flatboat, getting the ground in shape, erection of bleacher seats for the actors as well as the audience, rental for oxen, stage properties built for certain pageant scenes, such as the old time log seats for the district school, and many other things that will require the hiring of a carpenter.

All these expenses have to be met as well as many other small items too numerous to be mentioned here; then the publication of a pageant book with the historical story, outline of episodes and names of committees, all actors and names of communities represented. Every thing considered, it will cost not less than \$1,000 to produce this pageant on July 4th.

The next production will not have such heavy expense as all properties made for this year's use will be preserved for future presentations. Not one of the officers or committees receive one cent of pay for their labors and Mrs. Ehrman, author and director of the pageant, donates her time and work for the cause, as does Miss Richards, director and arranger of the dances, Miss Alice Mason, accompanist, Mrs. Kate Salm, leader of the chorus, Mr. R. H. Johnson, director of the band, members of the band, actors, ushers, police: every one connected with the affair.

All feel it a patriotic duty to give of their time and talent and the actors furnish their own costumes: all is done freely that Spencer county may build a living memorial to Abraham Lincoln.

Professor L. N. Hines, president of the Indiana Lincoln Memorial Association, when here in 1927 in the interest of the pageant, requested that there be reserved seats so that people from a distance could secure their seats in advance and feel sure they would have a good seat upon their arrival. For this reason and because of the great cost of the erection of the new bleachers, the committee has planned for three different priced seats; general admission 50 cents, reserved seats one dollar; for the afternoon performance school children twelve years of age or under will be admitted for 25 cents. There will also be a limited number of boxes at \$15 a box.

In this way, with the two performances it is hoped to seat all who come from a distance as well as our own people.

After the pageant is over and all expenses paid, should there be any money left, a per cent. shall be given to the Park Board for the upkeep of Rocky Side Park, where is located the historic landing; the balance to be used for historic purposes, such as the erection of markers at historic spots in the county.

A full report of all funds received and used will be made after the pageant is over, so that all citizens can know and be interested in the financial affairs of the Historical Pageant Committee.

Come, citizens of Spencer county, and help make the world recognize our county as the home of the Lincoln family for fourteen years and the spot where the immortal Lincoln lived the formative years of his life, from seven to twenty-one.

Taylor C. Basye, Chairman,  
Mrs. John Pattie, Secretary,  
Mrs. Calder Ehrman, Director,  
Mrs. Fred Heuring,  
Winn Shrode,  
Robert Miller, Committee.

## Rockport to Give Lincoln Pageant As Biennial Event

ROCKPORT, Feb. 11.—(Special)—An Abraham Lincoln pageant, "Lincoln in Indiana," which will be in the nature of a modification of "When Lincoln Went Flatboating from Rockport," produced by Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann of this city in September, 1926, is in preparation by Mrs. Ehrmann, and will become a biennial affair, sponsored by the Spencer County Historical society.

The date for the 1928 presentation of the pageant has been set at July 4, and is in line with a suggestion made by L. N. Hines of Terre Haute, president of the Lincoln Memorial association, who is also president of the State Normal school. Mrs. Kate Miller Rabb of Indianapolis, former resident of Rockport, is secretary of the association.

President Hines' suggestion was that the pageant, a thing of simple beauty and impressiveness, be perpetuated as a living memorial to Lincoln's residence in Spencer county during the most formative years of his life.

### SOCIETY ENDORSES PROJECT

Taylor C. Basye, president of the Spencer County Historical society, today announced that the pageant committee composed of Mrs. Ehrmann, Mrs. Grace H. Pattie, Mrs. F. A. Heuring, Robert V. Miller and Winn Shrode, is unanimously behind the project to make the pageant presentation a biennial event.

Invitations are being issued to more than 100 organizations of various kinds in the county, to assist the pageant committee in the presentation.

The Lincoln Memorial association, which inspired the decision just taken, was organized in June, 1922, and was the first organization to propose the enlargement of Nancy Hanks Lincoln park at Lincoln City.

### STARTED MEMORIAL MOVE

It was largely through the influence exerted by this association that the state legislature appropriated the first \$5,000 for the purchase of additional land, once a part of the Lincoln farm, which was added to the park. The school children of the county at that time raised \$1,500, which also went toward the purchase of this tract of land.

Mrs. Ehrmann is not writing the new pageant for money or personal glory, but purely for the consideration of fostering among the people of this community a lasting appreciation of Lincoln, inspiring them with the reminder that it was in the midst of Spencer county environment that Lincoln developed the traits of character that made him great. Lincoln lived in Spencer county during fourteen of the most formative years of his life.

# Living Memorial Dedicated To Lincoln's Indiana Life

Evening Sun 4-29-26



The outstanding characters in the proposed pageant on Lincoln at Rockport are: Millard Huffman as Lincoln at 18 (top left); Mrs. John Pattie, as Nancy Hanks Lincoln (lower right), and Judge F. Hurling and Mrs. Nancy Wright as Tom Lincoln and his second wife, Sarah Johnston Lincoln. At top right is Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, writer of the pageant.

By BESS V. EHRMANN  
(Writer of the Lincoln Pageant)

THE state of Indiana is now making plans to erect a wonderful memorial at Lincoln City, Ind., home of the Lincoln family for 14 years and the burial place of Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Spencer county is very much interested in this memorial and was the first county to go over the top in the drive for funds. Along with this great

memorial of marble and granite the county is building a living memorial to the Great Emancipator in the form of a biennial pageant presented at Rockport, the county seat, and 17 miles from Lincoln City.

It was from Rockport that Abraham Lincoln went on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans on Allen Gentry's boat.

THE pageant title is "When Lincoln Went Flatboating from Rockport," and is given on the exact spot on the old

boats were loaded for the southern markets.

The pageant was first produced in 1926 and this year's production will be on July 4th, being the 100th anniversary of the flatboat trip.

There will be two performances of the pageant on the Fourth; one at four o'clock in the afternoon and one at eight at night. Actors from all over Spencer county take part in the dramatic production.

There are 10 episodes, each scene being an historic happening in the life of the boy Lincoln in Spencer county. An old-fashioned ferry boat is seen crossing the Ohio in sight of the audience, having on board the Lincoln family crossing the river on their way to their new home in Indiana.

\* \* \*

THE burial of Nancy Hanks; the arrival of the new wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln; the district school; the tannery scene at Grandview; the wedding of Ann Roby and Allen Gentry; the leaving of the flatboat with Lincolns aboard; Lincoln walking to Rockport to borrow a book from John Pitcher; the Lincoln family leaving for Illinois, and the return of Abe Lincoln as a Clay elector in 1844 are the scenes which show spirit of the Ohio river and of the forest and the entrance into the Union of Indiana territory.

The pageant is given by the Spencer county historical society under the auspices of the Indiana Memorial association.

There are many beautiful memorials of stone and marble that have been erected in many cities and different countries to the great American Citizen, Abraham Lincoln.

The Spencer County Historical Society of Indiana, under the auspices and direction of the Indiana Lincoln Memorial Association, are endeavoring to build a different type of memorial to this man in the form of a living memorial, a historical biennial pageant.

This pageant is given in the quaint old town of Rockport, county seat of Spencer County, a town seventeen miles from the former home of the Lincolns, and the place where Nancy Hanks Lincoln lies buried. It was to Rockport that Thomas Lincoln often came on business, bringing with him his son Abraham. It was in Rockport that the noted lawyer, John Pitcher, lived, who loaned Lincoln books. Allen Gentry, who took Abraham Lincoln as oarsman on his flat boat in 1828 also lived in Rockport.

The citizens of Rockport and Spencer County, through a spirit of patriotism and loyalty to their ancestors, who were friends of the Lincolns during their residence in Spencer County, act the historic scenes of Lincoln's boyhood and young manhood in Indiana. This pageant is called "When Lincoln Went Flatboating From Rockport" and is given on the exact spot of the old boat landing where the Gentrys for three generations loaded their flatboats for the southern market.

On the shore of the majestic Ohio with towering bluffs as a background, this pageant shows a bit of American history never to be forgotten by those who view it.

The pageant opens with the crossing of the old ferry boat with the Lincoln family on board coming from Kentucky to Indiana in the year 1816. Then, the scenes that follow show the burial of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the bringing of Thomas Lincoln's second wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln, the school days of Abraham Lincoln, visits to the old tannery near Grandview, Indiana, Abraham walking to Rockport to borrow books from John Pitcher, the wedding of Ann Roby and Allen Gentry, a short time before Gentry started on his southern trip, the leaving Indiana for the Illinois home, and then a scene showing the return of Abraham Lincoln in 1844 as a Clay elector; the departure of the Gentry flatboat in 1828, with Lincoln handling the big oar of the boat, is the outstanding scene of the pageant.

It was on this trip that Lincoln saw slaves whipped and sold and was so impressed by the sight that he said to his employer and friend, Allen Gentry, "If I ever get a chance to hit this thing I'll hit it hard."

These are the outstanding incidents in Lincoln's life that are portrayed in the Spencer County pageant. The actors are almost entirely descendants of the pioneers who knew Lincoln. These citizens try to present a true and honest picture of the pioneer days, hoping to instruct their children and the present generation in the historic facts of Lincoln's fourteen years lived in Indiana.

In 1926, when the pageant was given for the first time, the crowds were so large that there was not even standing room for the people. It was decided that all future presentations would be given twice. A larger and better seating arrangement was planned <sup>for the 1928 production</sup> and two performances were <sup>then and will be</sup> given on each Fourth of July, ~~when the pageant is presented~~. One performance at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the

second at 8 o'clock P.M. In this way all visitors may be assured of good seating facilities.

People wishing to make a pilgrimage to the Lincoln country in southern Indiana may arrange a very interesting itinerary by way of West Baden, French Lick, Nancy Hanks Lincoln Park, St. Meinrad Abbey, Anderson Creek Ferry, Lafayette Springs and then the pageant "When Lincoln Went Flat boating From Rockport" given at the exact spot, the old boat landing, where Lincoln left on his first flat boat trip with Allen Bentley.

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmanp, President,  
Southwestern Indiana Historical Society,  
Rockport, Indiana.

Madam President:

May your committee on the "Lincoln Forest, Field,  
Flora and Family" be permitted to make the following report?

TEXT OF THE REPORT

The thirteen original states did not have a rectangular system of surveys and much confusion resulted. Their territory was "taken up," piece at a time, and according to the whim, fancy, occupation, or purse of the royal owners or first settlers. Kentucky, "the rose of old Virginia," did not have a regular survey and often its early settlers were defeated in their plans to form a habitation and a home. It is said that due partly to such a possibility Col. Daniel Boone and Thomas Lincoln left Kentucky and went into territories having "surveyed lands" with marked boundaries and established corner posts. The Northwest Territory had rectangular surveys of all lands bought from the government after 1804. That fact brought many poor men from Kentucky. In Indiana, the cost of the rectangular land surveys had been assumed by the general government and the surveys had been made. A settler simply had to select his "quarter-section," or his "eighty" - read the "record in the bark," copy it, and proceed to the land office at Vincennes for the "Papers of his purchase."

The land entries in the environs of Lincoln's eight, in 1817 were as follows:

John Jones	-	171.36 Acres	- April 19, 1817.
David Casebier	-	160 Acres	- May 9, 1817.
Samuel Howell	-	80 Acres	- Sept. 6, 1817.
Thomas Barrett	-	80 Acres	- Sept. 17, 1817.
Thomas Linkemn	-	80 Acres	- Oct. 15, 1817.
John Carter	-	132.67 Acres	- Nov. 8, 1817.

Add to this list Thomas Carter, David Edwards, Sr., Noah Gordon, Wm. Whitenhill, James Gentry and Thomas Twinham and the list of few simple holders is about complete in 16 square miles around Lincoln's eighty until long after the Lincolns left Indiana.

James Gentry's first entry near Lincoln's home was one mile west of Lincoln's eighty and bears date of March 21, 1818. After that his purchases ran far above a thousand acres. He seems to have been an extensive land owner after Lincoln came and went. He may have bought the "improvement" of thos who moved away. Something must have attracted these men to that particular part of Spencer County, along Pigeon creek.

It is a strange coincidence, but Thomas Lincoln unintentionally selected an eighty-acre tract, just where all the errors of twenty-four miles of surveying south from Buckingham's Base Line closed up, causing so-called "eighty-acre tracts" around him to contain such odd areas as 61.34 acres, 64 acres, 69.68 acres, 76.70 acres, 85.68

acres, 88 acres, etc. However, his own tract was a regulation "eighty".

It is said that Nancy Hanks Lincoln died of milksickness, which is supposed to be acquired by cattle eating white snake root, that grows in all its glory in dark, cool, damp and shady places. The government records of the surveys made around Lincoln City in 1805, have the word "swamp" written across the 160 acres immediately on the north end of the Lincoln and the Gentry eighties. What a message that word "swamp" may convey. This swamp was the natural environment of the various varieties of the snake root family. It is now the low land north of Lincoln City traversed by the Southern Railroad. On January 28, 1819, Thomas Twinham entered the 160 acres in section 29 just east of this swamp. An extended study shows that pioneers entered land adjoining swamps, creeks, ponds, or springs. The first land entries were near bodies of water.

After an extensive study of field notes covering nearly fifty years a surveyor is inclined to say that springs furnishing water suitable for drinking purposes existed on the west side of Lincoln's eighty and on the east side of Casebier's eighty at the junction of the silt and swamp soil with the clay soil of the surrounding high land. Such water was an asset to any tract of land. It may seem

strange but good springs were not very common in that part of ranges 4 and 5 south of the latitude of Huntingburg.

This many account for the land entries surrounding Lincoln's eighty. After the first land entries the settlement was slow; many tracts remained not taken even until the early fifties. In the proposed Lincoln landscape the flora of the streams and swamps should not be overlooked and a body of shallow water may be very appropriately utilized.

The land about Lincoln's home was divided into townships and sections by Deputy United States Surveyors David Sanford and Arthur Henri, in 1805. The survey was made from a point on the Dubois County line about one mile southeast of St. Henry, toward the south and from near Santa Claus toward the west.

It was no easy task, in 1805, to supply a corps of surveyors in the forests of Southern Indiana with dood. For that reason work continued day after day, Sundays and holidays not excepted. The survey immediately around Lincoln City was made between sunrise on Christmas Day, December, 1805, and sunset on December 26, 1805. On the south line of Lincoln's eighty there was a brook ten links wide running northwest. The land on this south line of section 32, Township 5 South, Range 5 West is described

as "middling;  $\frac{1}{2}$  timber-oak and hickory. This line and land lie south of the grave. At the southwest corner of Lincoln's eighty the government surveyors, in 1805, marked and recorded a hickory six inches in diameter as North  $89^{\circ}$  East 37 Links distant. This hickory stood on the Lincoln eighty. They also marked and recorded a black walnut 10 inches in diameter as North  $67^{\circ}$  West  $29\frac{1}{2}$  Links distant. This walnut stood on the David Casebier entry. The land on the line between Lincoln and Casebier (which is the section line between sections 31 and 32) is described as "flat, bushy, briery, wet, oak-timbered soil." It was the west line of Lincoln's eighty. As witness trees to the northwest corner of Lincoln's eighty the surveyors marked and recorded two wild cherry trees; one 4 inches in diameter bore South  $30^{\circ}$  East and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Links distant. This tree grew on Lincoln's eighty, and so close to the corner that if yet standing, the northwest side would mark the corner. There was another wild cherry tree, (also 4 inches in diameter) standing North  $70^{\circ}$  West 9 Links distant; at  $20\frac{3}{4}$  chains north of this corner there was a brook 12 links across, with water flowing northwest.

Among the trees and shrubbery that grew in the environs of Lincoln City, in 1805, were the following:

## (Group A.)

- 1 - Beech - red, white water and swamp.
- 2 - Cherry - wild, black.
- 3 - Crabapple - wild.
- 4 - Dogwood - flowering.
- 5 - Elm - red, hickory, slippery, yellow.
- 6 - Gum - sweet, sour, tupelo or black, red and sweet - black.
- 7 - Hickory - swamp, shellbark, white-heart, white, small-fruited, black, king-nut, and pig-nut. (The Indians called these trees "pohickory.")
- 8 - Ironwood.
- 9 - Locust - honey locust, black and old-field.
- 10 - Maple - black-sugar, hard, rock, sugar-tree, soft red and swamp.
- 11 - Oak - burr, jack, black, white, gray, yellow, scarlet, shingle, chestnut, barren, post, chinquapin, over-cup, yellow-bottom, blackjack, wamp-white, Spanish, pin, willow and live-oak (few).
- 12 - Poplar - yellow (or tulip, the state flower) white and blue.
- 13 - Pawpaw - grew on shady "gladly land."
- 14 - Redbud or Judas tree.
- 15 - Sassafras - red and white.
- 16 - Sycamore - red, white (buttonwood or plane).
- 17 - Spicewood.
- 18 - Walnut - black and white (butternut).

In addition to the above there also grew in Southern Indiana, within the observation of at least some members of this committee (and surely in Lincoln's time) other trees, shrubs, etc., namely;

## (Group B.)

- 1 - Aspen tree, large toothed at the headwaters of the Anderson River.
- 2 - Buckeye - sweet, a native of the Ohio valley.
- 3 - Basswood - (white lin)
- 4 - Birch - red, white, water, sweet and canoe.
- 5 - Balsam tree.
- 6 - Balm of Gilead (Paradis tree, tree of heaven, usually planted in graveyards.)
- 7 - Cucumber tree - yellow lin.
- 8 - Cedar - red and white.
- 9 - Cottonwood - Yellow and white.
- 10 - Coffee Nut, also Kentucky coffee tree.

- 11 - Chestnut, rock or oak, at headwaters of the Anderson River
- 12 - Cypress - few.
- 13 - Catalpa, hardy.
- 14 - Haw tree - black, yellow and red, many northwest of Dale.
- 15 - Hackberry.
- 16 - Hop hornbeam.
- 17 - Linden.
- 18 - Mulberry - red.
- 19 - Pecan - yellow and white.
- 20 - Persimmon - (Virginia)
- 21 - Plum - wild, red.
- 22 - Service - berry.
- 23 - Thorn tree - red-fruited, glandular and cockspur.
- 24 - Willow - yellow, white and black.  
(Note practically all of these trees are deciduous trees.)

Among the underbrush that grew under these trees were the following wild vines, shrubs or bushes:

(Group C.)

- 1 - Briers - various, too mean and numerous to mention.
- 2 - Black currants.
- 3 - Blackberry.
- 4 - Elderberry.
- 5 - Fox grapevines.
- 6 - Fruit grapes.
- 7 - Gooseberry.
- 8 - Hazel bushes
- 9 - Honeysuckles.
- 10 - Indian Arrows
- 11 - Kinikinick.
- 12 - Leatherwood.
- 13 - Prickly ash.
- 14 - Poisin Ivy.
- 15 - Mountain Laurel - headwaters of the Anderson.
- 16 - Raspberry.
- 17 - Sumach.
- 18 - Summer grapes.
- 19 - Wahoo.
- 20 - Wild Rose.
- 21 - Wild Cucumber.
- 22 - Wild Strawberry
- 23 - Virginia Creeper, (Trumpet Flower)

The oaks, dogwoods, hickories, wild cherries, crab-apples and sassafrases are very frequently mentioned in the surveyors' field notes covering the Lincoln settlement. Since the sassafras is an American tree of the laurel family the laurel shrub may be safely included. By all means species of the trees under group "A" should be well represented in the proposed grove and of these the six just mentioned should be outstanding. (See note A.)

The surveyors recorded a trace leading from the southeast and going just north of Dale toward Vincennes. Near Dale it crossed the Yellowbanks trace that went from Rockport by way of Gentryville to Dale, Huntingburg, Ellows' Mill, Portersville, etc. On the map this Perry County trace is located and marked "Trace to Vincennes." It also appears near Rome in Perry County and may have been an Indian trace into Kentucky. In Spencer County it was about four miles north of Lincoln's eighty, and may be re-located at one point per mile by actual measurements at any time. (See note B.)

These government surveyors (one a graduate of Yale, and the other probably a Frenchman) used the following

.....

(Note A. - Almost any plant that grows in North American may be grown in Southern Indiana. Cotton grew in Dubois County and the remains of an old cotton gin may yet be seen on White River. Flax and indigo grew wild along the Wabash and White Rivers. Indigo grew wild in Knox County. The manufacture of indigo was detrimental to the health of white people, so it was a colored man's job. To avoid commercial competition was one reason why southern states voted for the admission of the Northwest Territory as free soil territory.)

descriptive phrases in describing the lands and forests surrounding Lincoln City, to wit:

1. Good timber for building.
2. Convenient for farming.
3. Middling fair.
4. Gladly.
5. Very gladly.
6. Broken oak-timbered land.
7. Thin, flat soil.
8. Good farmng land.
9. Middling for farming.
10. Flat gladly soil.
11. Rolling.
12. Very brushy and briery land.
13. Very gladly and brushy, briers.
14. Creek flats.
15. Gentle hills.
16. Clay soil.
17. Gentle rises.
18. Moist land.
19. Low cold land.
20. Second rate.
21. Rolling up-land.
22. Sorry land, etc.,

These expressions appear in the field notes of each mile surveyed and recorded as describing the country just traversed, etc. The word "gladly" seems to be a Kentucky expression meaning good or fertile, probably borrowed and used by Surveyor David Sanford, the Yale graduate, because it was understood by such men as were potential buyers.

The word is also used by him in describing the lands in .....

(Note B. - It seems a trail is a path made by animals or Indians; a trace is a path made and blazed by a white man. It also seems when a trail was blazed and widened so as to permit the passing of a man on horseback, or an Indiana travois, it was called a trace by government surveyors. A trace is a trail partly developed toward a road. )

County containing the old historical buffalo wallows, twenty-four miles due north of Lincoln's eighty. Today these buffalo wallows are the very garden spots of that county - fertile and productive beyond the wildest fancies of its American pioneers.

By noticing the direction the surveyor was surveying when he used the term "gentle rises" the slope and draining of the land could be known. These descriptions and notations of the old surveyors were carefully studied by land speculators who often entered land without ever seeing it. Usually they entered land between two older entries.

The records of the land office at Vincennes show that on October 15, 1817, Thomas "Linkern" entered the ~~W~~est half of the Southwest quarter of Section 32 Township 4 South, Range 5 West eighty acres. No other entry near Lincoln City was made on that day so it appears Thomas Lincoln may have gone alone to Vincennes to make his land entry. John Hones, David Casebier, Thomas Barrett and Samuel Howell entered land within a mile of Lincoln's eighty, before Lincoln went to Vincennes. Closely following the Lincoln entry were those of John Carter, Thomas Twinham, James Gentry and William Whitenhill.

In 1820 there were living with Thomas Lincoln at his home in Spencer County one boy under ten years of

age; one boy over 10 but under 16; one young man over 16 but under 26, and one man 45 or older. There were also in this family one girl over 10 but under 16; two young women between 16 and 26 and one woman 45 or older. There were eight in all in the family of which three were classed as being engaged in agriculture. This information was obtained from a photostat of the first census taken by a deputy United States marshall in Spencer County in 1820. The names except Thomas Lincoln's are not given but the word Lincoln is spelled as history now spells it.

The facts and figures used in this report have been taken from official state and Federal records written in long hand probably with a goose-quill pen. This report is not burdened with the volumes and pages but the records themselves may be produced if needed to convince any one of the correctness of this report. The records would be accepted as final in any court having jurisdiction over landed properties.

This report is but a "gesture" to the landscape artist and florist of this worthy undertaking and in that light it should be received and understood.

To assist in a better understanding of this report a map (as of 1817) etc., is attached and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted.

# 102 Years Ago Lincoln Took His Long Flatboat Ride From Rockport, Ind., to New Orleans, La.

BY BESS V. EHERMANN.

Frontiers have faded westward with the sun; beneath a century's dust, the pioneers sleep quietly; while Lincoln's boyhood years are forgotten, fall into oblivion.

B. E.

 BEYOND the main street of Rockport, in 1828, the towering bluffs looked purple in the evening twilight. A full moon was

rising over the distant Kentucky hills, making a pathway of silver across the river to the old boat landing on the Indiana side. It touched with magic fingers the rude flatboat tied up at the water's edge, the log cabins of the village in the background that nestled close to the high cliffs; likewise it touched and softened the features of a tall, ungainly country boy, who sat at one end of the flatboat dangling his bare feet in the water.

A deep silence was over all with only the sound of the water lapping the sides of the flatboat.

#### To See Slaves Whipped, Sold.

Spring was in the air and in a few days the boat would be loosened from its moorings and float slowly out upon the swift current on its journey down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to the colorful city of New Orleans, that mecca of the river flatboat men who carried their cargoes to Southern markets.

Who could foretell that this particular flatboat would carry on board as oarsman a boy destined to be President of the greatest republic on earth, a boy who would one day free an enslaved race and who after his death would be the idol of the world—Abraham Lincoln?

On this momentous trip in 1828 Abraham Lincoln, 19 years old, was to see slaves whipped and sold in New Orleans and would vow to his friend and employer, Allen Gentry, that if ever he had a chance to hit this evil he would hit it hard. Prophetic words spoken by a boy to a man, neither of whom ever dreamed of their fulfillment.

#### What Were His Thoughts?

What were the thoughts of this young flatboat man as he sat alone in the moonlight, looking out over the placidly flowing water and beyond to the Kentucky shore, the state of his birth? Perhaps he was thinking of the time when a boy 7 years old he had crossed this river, coming to the new home in the Indiana wilderness, or of the mother who lay buried in Indiana, and the beloved sister who had just died a few months before and been laid to rest in this wilderness land.

Whatever his thoughts, they must have been ennobled and saddened by the beauty of the spring night on the shore of the majestic Ohio. Even unromantic eyes looking out over the beauty of a moon-lighted world would be impressed with those things unseen and unrealized.

What was this boy doing here alone, seventeen miles from the home

of his father and stepmother? He had been hired by his father's neighbor, James Gentry, wealthy landowner, to accompany Gentry's son, Allen, as oarsman on a flatboat to New Orleans.

#### A True Backwoodsman.

Allen lived on his father's farm north of the boat landing, at Rockport. Close by lived the Grass family. Abe had been living with them for two weeks, helping the Gentrys prepare and load the flatboat for the Southern trip. He was a tall, awkward, young fellow, with the strength in his long arms to handle with ease the heavy oar of a flatboat.

A true backwoodsman, simple in manner, generous, sympathetic and kind of heart. He could read, write and cipher and was eager for learning. He had a great shock of black hair that never seemed to have known a comb. His eyes were sad but kindly and his skin thickened and bronzed by the weather. He wore a patched, blue shirt, buckskin breeches that were too tight and too short, exposing his shin bones and bare feet, and no hat. An odd looking boy and one who liked nothing better than to steal off to a quiet spot where he could meditate or read some book that he had borrowed from his elders.

#### Borrowed Books.

Tonight he had come alone from the Grass home to sit on the boat and dream his dreams. The river ever had held a great fascination for him.

In this wilderness town of Rockport lived a number of educated and cultured men who had the courage to come West and establish homes in the new free state. Some of them possessed small libraries that they had brought with them from their homes in Virginia and the Eastern states. Lincoln borrowed many of them, after he had attended sessions

of the court with his father and had become acquainted with the leading men of the village.

Among these men was the noted lawyer, John Pitcher, who loaned Abe a number of books and encouraged him to cultivate his mind. It is said of this boy that he frequently walked the seventeen miles from his home to talk to this man and borrow another book. Other times he walked to Boonville, seat of Warrick county, to hear John Breckenridge plead a case. Breckenridge, perhaps, had more to do with attracting the attention of Lincoln to the study of law than any other man.

#### Longs to Do Great Things.

So as he sits here on this moonlight night, perhaps his thoughts turn to Judge Pitcher or Breckenridge and the book he has been reading and a great longing is born in him to accomplish great things.

There are many handicaps—lack of education, ungainly physique, pioneer hardships, poverty, in fact, almost all of the things that one considers necessary to succeed these days Lincoln did not have—and yet in years to come he was to rise above all handicaps and with the courage of his convictions convince thousands of the rightness of his thinking.

The formative years of this boy's life had been spent in a wilderness country. Here he had worked, studied, played, grieved for his dead mother and now is grown to young manhood. In a few days he is to set forth on his first journey into the big world where he is to see and hear things that will change his entire life.

#### Took Courage.

It took courage in those days for two young men to venture forth on a long river trip and face the dangers of unknown and untried things. Both of these young men had courage, honesty and the will to endure hardships. They were to see and be impressed by city life, to realize their lack of many things, to witness the evils of slavery and Lincoln was to make resolves for the future that would in later years affect the destiny of a nation. Thus, lesson by lesson, experience upon experience, a boy's life is shaped for a great future. Kentucky gave him birth; Illinois was later to give him his political career, but Indiana molded the man.

Today the descendants of Allen Gentry and of those friends of the Lincoln family in Indiana perpetuate the boyhood and young manhood of the great emancipator by a living memorial, a biennial historical pageant given on the exact spot where the Gentry flatboats were loaded for the Southern market.

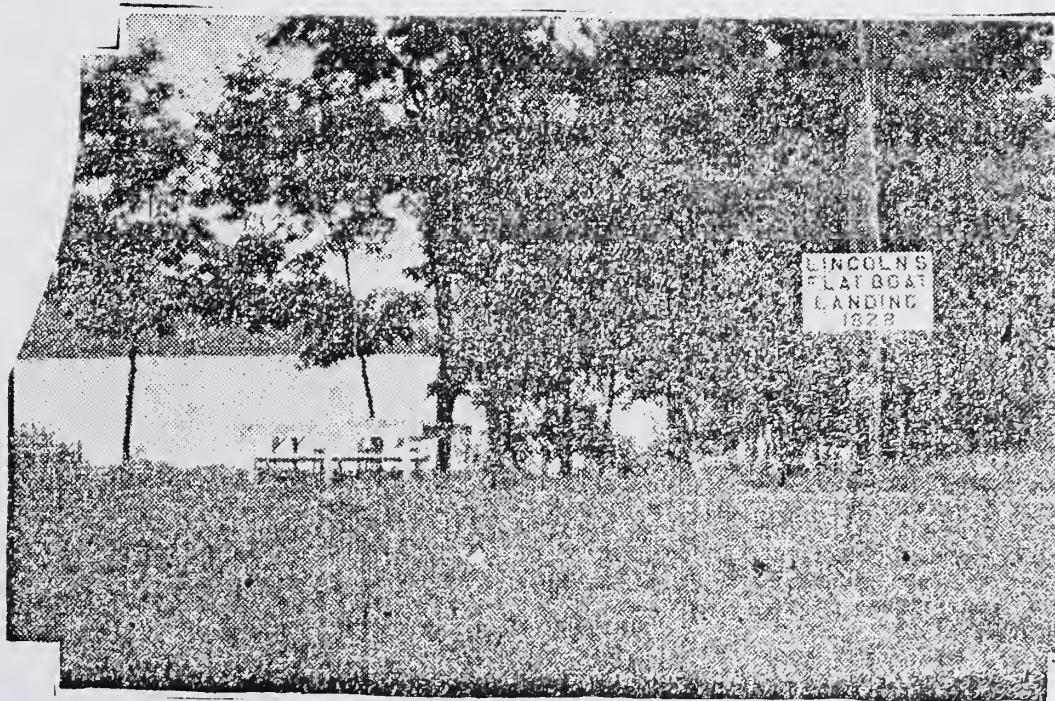
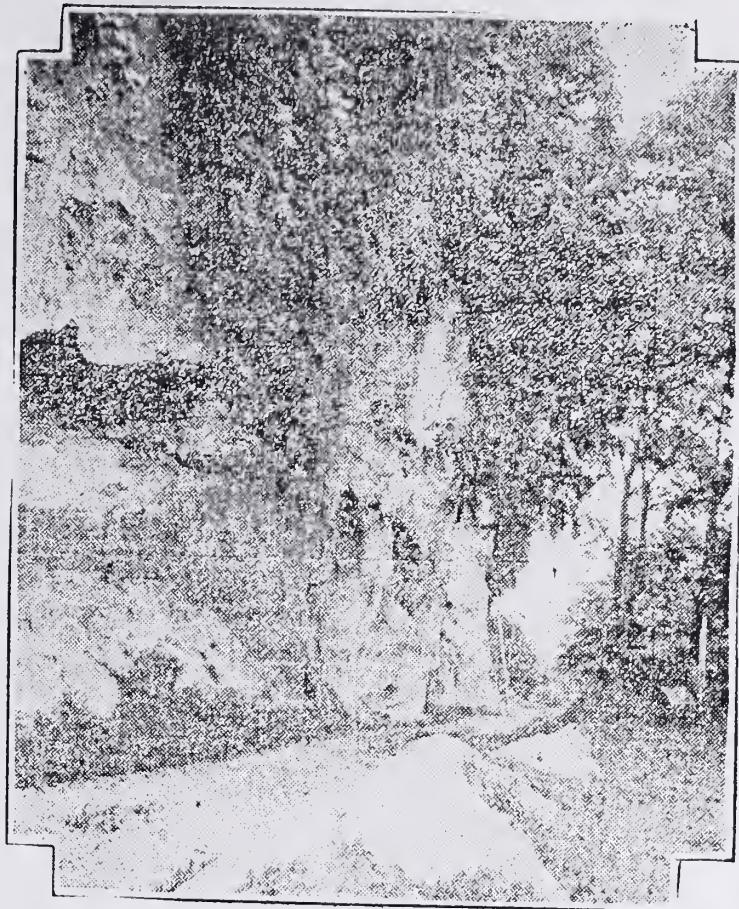
#### Pageant Held Annually.

This presentation is an unusual historical drama because the citizens of Spencer county, Indiana, as an act of patriotism, portray the life of the boy flatboat man and the river journey that changed his life. Given at the old landing site and on the banks of the Ohio river, it presents a picture and a bit of American history never to be forgotten.

Spectators thrill to see a third generation of Gentrys play the part of

their ancestors and when the flatboat slips its moorings and floats down stream we see the great-grandson of Allen Gentry waving farewell to his family, and a tall, awkward boy in the role of Abe Lincoln, the flatboat man, handling the big oar of the boat.

Thus, loyal patriotic citizens build a living memorial before the eyes of their young so that all may see and know what went into the making of America's greatest citizen—Abraham Lincoln.



1. Milliard Huffman, a descendant of a pioneer family that knew Lincoln, in the role of Lincoln as a boy of 19.

2. As the Lincoln flatboat looked.

3. Old boat landing near Rockport where Lincoln left on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans.

4. Bluffs at Rockport, near which is the old landing from which Lincoln left as an oarsman on Allen Gentry's flatboat in 1828.

VISIT THE  
**Lincoln Pioneer Village**



In City Park

Rockport, Ind.

Designed and built by George Honig, artist and sculptor with C. W. A. and W. P. A. labor under direction of the Spencer County Historical Society and Rockport City Park Board 1935-36-37.

A memorial to Abraham Lincoln and his 14 formative years spent in Spencer County, and to his pioneer neighbors and friends.

Placards on all buildings give their history.

1. and 2. Administration Building and Museum. Here are displayed many articles of interest, not all of the Lincoln period.

3. John Pitcher Law Office. Pitcher was Spencer County's first resident lawyer and his office was in Rockport. Abraham Lincoln borrowed books from him.

4. Jones Store. The Jones store was located at Jonesboro, just west of the present town of Gentryville. Lincoln was a clerk in this store for a time. (Maintained by Rockport Womans' club.)

5. Aaron and Sarah Grigsby Home. Sarah Grigsby was Lincoln's sister, (Maintained by Silverdale Home Economics club.)

6. Gentry Mansion. James Gentry was a rich land owner and a neighbor of the Lincolns. He employed Abe on his farm, and in 1828 hired him to go with his son Allen Gentry on a flatboat to New Orleans. (Maintained by descendants of the Gentry family.)

7. A replica of the Old Pigeon Baptist church which Thomas Lincoln and his son Abraham helped to build.

8. Azel Dorsey Home and old fashioned garden near it. Azel Dorsey was one of Lincoln's school teachers. The first court held in Spencer County was held in his home. (Maintained by Rockport Garden club.)

9. Daniel Grass Home. Judge Daniel Grass was the second man in Spencer County to take out a land grant, and the first to own land in the present town of Rockport. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Indiana. (Maintained by descendants and the Spier Spencer Chapter of the D. A. R.)

10. Pioneer school house.

11. Aunt Lepha McKay (or Mackey) Home. Aunt Lepha was a beloved Rockport lady who took colored children into her home and taught them to read and write long before there were schools for colored people. She once owned the land where stands the Lincoln Pioneer Village.

12. Replica of the last home of the Lincolns in Spencer County. They had three different cabins during the fourteen years in Indiana. (Maintained by James C. Veatch Woman's Relief Corps.)

13. Brown's Inn. First tavern in Rockport. Many distinguished guests were entertained in this log house in pioneer days. (Maintained by Business and Professional Womans' club.)

14. Grandview Block House. An early blockhouse in Spencer County.

15. Market and Barter House.

16. Josiah Crawford Home.—Abraham Lincoln and his sister Sarah both worked at times for Mr. and Mrs. Crawford. Lincoln read books belonging to them, one of which was "Life of Washington." (Maintained by Rockport American Legion Auxiliary.)

Admission charges for a tour of the Village: adults, 25c; children, 10c; special rates to large groups or clubs.

Covered wagon, oxcarts, sweep and windlass wells, mill-burrs, shaving horse, ash hoppers, soap kettles, hitch racks, grind stones, mould board plow, and other pioneer exhibits in the village grounds. Across from the Village is Lake Alda, where row boats may be rented at 25c per couple for 15 minute ride on the lake. Wading pool for small children, good drinking water, tables, benches, open air furnaces, all free to picnic parties under century old trees.

*you are invited to attend*

UNVEILING OF SCULPTURED MURAL OF  
"Abraham Lincoln's Forest College In  
Spencer County, Indiana"

1816-1830



ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND JAMES GRISBY'S FOREST COLLEGE IN SPENCER CO. INDIANA 1816-1830

A Public Works of Art Project Erected In Rockport High School by George H. Honig, Sculptor.

SPONSORED BY SPENCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AND SPENCER COUNTY SCHOOLS

*Rockport, Indiana - - - October 31, 1934*

*Morning 10:30 A. M.  
Lincoln Flatboat Landing*

*Afternoon 2:00 P. M.  
Rockport High School*

---

## PROGRAM

---

MORNING SESSION, 10:30 A. M.

Lincoln Flatboat Landing On Ohio

"Historical Lincoln Flatboat Landing"—Recital by Prof. Ross Lockridge of Indiana University and Supervisor of Adult Education under the Emergency Relief Administration of Indiana

Opening Remarks.....Mrs. C. D. Ehrmann, President of Spencer County Historical Society

Invocation.....Rev. Earl Courter, Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockport

Words of Welcome.....T. C. Basye, President Emeritus Spencer County Historical Society

Music of Lincoln's Time In Indiana, 1816-1830.....Evansville College Chorus under the direction of Prof. I. M. Blackburn

Address, "Lincoln's Ohio River Contacts".....Prof. Ross Lockridge

Music.....Evansville College Chorus

Benediction.....Rev. Homer Page, Methodist Episcopal Church, Rockport

Kiwanis Noon Luncheon. Guest speakers: President Stewart McClelland of Lincoln Memorial University, Harroldgate, Tenn.; President Earl Harper of Evansville College, and Prof. Ross Lockridge, Indiana University. Music by the Evansville College Chorus. Prof. T. V. Pruitt presiding.

---

---

## PROGRAM

---

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2:00 P. M.

Rockport High School Auditorium. Master of Ceremonies, Superintendent of  
Rockport Public Schools, Prof. T. V. Pruitt

Invocation.....Rev. Homer Page

Welcome Address.....Mrs. Eugenia Hayden, Superintendent Spencer County Public  
Schools

Piano Solo ..... Mrs. Aldah McCoy Honig

Music ..... Evansville College Chorus

Address—"Things Not Learned In School".....President Stewart McClelland of Lin-  
coln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.

Mention of An Historic Date.....C. T. Baker, Grandview

Remarks.....Pres. Earl Harper and Prof. Ross Lockridge

Presentation of Distinguished Guests, including Mr. George Honig, Sculptor, and An-  
drew M. Sweeney, Indianapolis.....Mrs. C. D. Ehrmann

Unveiling of Mr. George Honig's Public Works of Art Project, a Sculptured Mural,  
"Abraham Lincoln and James Grigsby's Forest College In Spencer County,  
Indiana, 1816-1830", by Eli Grigsby, whose ancestor is portrayed in the mural

Benediction ..... Rev. Earl Courier

---

SPECIAL GUESTS  
High Schools of Spencer County



OFFICERS SPENCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MRS. BESS V. EHRMAN, President  
T. C. BASYE, President Emeritus  
LAURA M. WRIGHT, Secretary  
U. S. LINDSEY, Treasurer



R. HOWARD BLAND, PRESIDENT.

# UNITED STATES FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY

JOHN O. SMITH

AGENT

GEE BLOCK

PHONE: 106

LAWRENCEVILLE, ILL.

Mr Louis A Warren, Director  
Lincoln Historical Research  
Foundation.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

July 19th-1929

My dear Mr Warren; I was happy to receive your letter of June 28th 1929 in reply to my letter of inquiry and I assure you that you gave me great pleasure in placing my name on your mailing list for "LINCOLN LORE" I have received each copy and prize them very much as I am deeply interested in any thing pertaining to LINCOLN HISTORY. I should like very much to have #4 of Lincoln Lore and if possible, to have a typewritten copy made, I shall be pleased to compensate you for the same I note from your letter that you are working on a history of Lincoln in Indiana and are interested in any thing that will give you any information about Gentryville, Indiana.

In my former letter I mentioned the fact that my grandfather William Boyd Smith was postmaster and kept store at Gentryville, Indiana in an early day and I enclose a true copy of his Commission of appointment as such Post Master. The original Commission is in my posession today and I am returning it to another grandson of William B Smith who owns the original Commission. The following is all the information that I have aside from the Postmasters Commission as above named. My Great Grand Fathers name was Daniel Smith a native of North Carolina and his wife's name was Nancy Spain a native of Virginia they were married on March 6th-1814. Daniel Smith was born March 22nd-1788 To this union thirteen children were born of which my grandfather William Boyd Smith was the oldest and he was born March 11-1815 in North Carolina.

In early life he moved with his parents to Gibson County, Indiana during the year of 1818. As a boy he worked on his fathers farm and in early manhood he taught school in Gibson and Posey Counties. He was married to ELENA JENNINGS of Nelson County Kentucky on March 11th -1841 and they lived in Spencer County Indiana where he conducted a store as equal partner with a Mr Gentry who founded Gentryville, Indiana they bought dressed pelts and shipped to New Orleans by boat, William B Smith was appointed Post Master at Gentryville, Indiana July 14th -1846- Commission dated October 1st -1846. He moved from Spence County to Gibson County and then to Posey County and lived near Poseyville and Cynthiana Indiana and in 1862 he moved to Wabash County, Illinois and in 1870 he moved to Sumner, Lawrence County Illinois where he died November 14th 1896.

Mr Warren this is about all that I have relative to my grandfather's residence in Indiana and it may not be of any value or interest to you however, it is a pleasure to pass it along and any other information that I could give you.

The second sheet of this letter will give you information relative to the "HANKS FAMILY"



R. HOWARD BLAND, PRESIDENT.

# UNITED STATES FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY

JOHN O. SMITH

AGENT

GEE BLOCK

PHONE: 106

LAWRENCEVILLE, ILL..

( Cut of Eagle with Spread wings)  
with scroll in its mouthbearing  
inscription "E PLURIBUS UNUM"

<sup>h</sup>  
CAVE JONSON

Postmaster General of the United States of America;

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting;

WHEREAS, ON THE 14th day of July 1846, William B Smith was appointed Postmaster at Gentryville, in the County of Spencer, State of Indiana; and whereas he did on the 3rd day of August, 1846, execute a bond, and has taken THE OATH OF OFFICE, as required by law.

NOW, KNOW YE, That, confiding in the integrity, ability and punctuality of the said William B Smith, I DO COMMISSION HIM a POSTMASTER, authorized to execute the duties of that office at Gentryville aforesaid, according to the laws of the United States, and the Regulations of the POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT; To hold the said office of POSTMASTER, with all the power, privileges, and emoluments to the same belonging, during the pleasure of the Post Master General of the United States.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal Of The Post Office Department to be affixed, at Washington City, the 1st day of OCTOBER in the year of our LORD one thousand eight hundred and forty six, and of the Independence of the United States, the seventy first.

(LS)

C Johnson.

\*\*\*\*\*

The above is a true copy of the original commission made this 19th day of July 1929 by William B Smith's grand son.

JOHN O SMITH.

Lawrenceville, Illinois.

# Village of Lincoln's Youth Is Built as It Was in His Day

*Special to The Christian Science Monitor*

ROCKPORT, Ind., July 5—A chapter in Abraham Lincoln's pioneer boyhood has been visualized for generations to come in the county in which he lived. A four-acre frontier village was dedicated here July 4 which makes it possible to see what sort of places young Abraham frequented after his family moved to this county from Kentucky.

A dozen log structures, built by emergency relief workers under the volunteer direction of George Honig, sculptor, a native of Rockport, are faithful studies of the crude houses, churches, schools and stores which stood in Spencer County when Lincoln was a lad, but which have since disappeared.

## Only \$6000 Used

The work has been accomplished with \$6000 and the gift of Mr. Honig's services, together with help from other citizens who gave needed timber. The Spencer County Historical Society, of which Mrs. C. D. Ehrmann is president, arranged a historical pageant to mark the opening of the village.

Visitors found upon arrival here that an eight-foot fence of saplings, built by these workers, now encloses a bit of pioneer Indiana. For within this inclosure, on a sloping hillside, almost everything one sees is in the authentic style of the period from 1816 to 1830, when the family of Thomas Lincoln was growing up on a wooded farm 17 miles from here.

## Use Authentic Setting

The fragrant forests of wild crab, cherry, dogwood, elm and sycamore that the Lincoln family found have been thinned by years of living in this far-south bit of Indiana, and new towns have replaced those of the first settlers. But Lincoln's time is not so far distant as history is measured, and many clues remained to help those who set out to reconstruct the past.

Piecing together such lore as the country around here affords, to-

gether with what can be found in books, Mr. Honig and his staff have been able to reconstruct much. Although the Pigeon Baptist Church which the Lincoln family attended burned and was replaced by a modern one, a copy of the original has been worked out here. Pews have been patterned after those made by Moses Boone, a nephew of Daniel Boone, for a historic church at Corydon, Ind.

## Old Store Reproduced

At Gentryville, in this county, where young Abe earned 30 cents a day clerking, no trace remains of the Jones store. But in the Rockport village one may see a log store with a log chimney and ramshackle porch which comes just about as near to being the actual Jones store as one could wish, even to pioneer merchandise on the shelves, and a hitching rail for the horses of the prosperous.

Biographers of Lincoln tell how he walked 17 miles from the wooded hill where his family lived to Rockport to borrow books from Judge John Pitcher. Judge Pitcher's law office stands beside the sapling fence of the village.

## One Actual House There

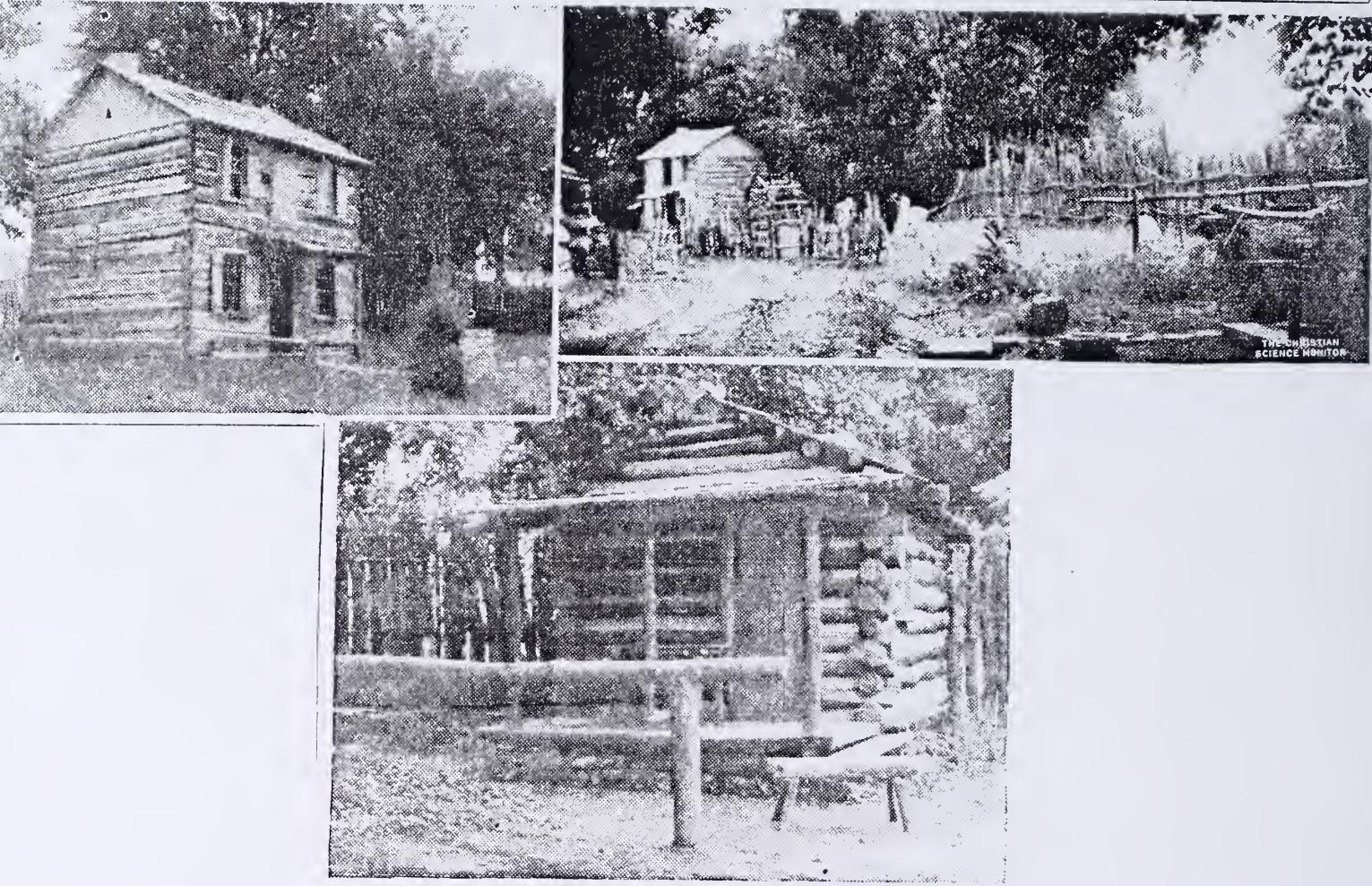
Then there are other landmarks which made up the setting of Lincoln's boyhood—such as the building in which Azell Dorsey, the school teacher, held the first court in Rockport; and the Grigsby House, home of the family into which Lincoln's sister Sarah married. One actual house of the period, donated by Henry Hock, was moved to the village site.

There are details, too, which lend atmosphere, so important in recalling a past epoch. There is a covered wagon, such as the Lincolns used when Thomas, the father, decided to pack up the family to strike out for better land in Illinois. These are utensils in the houses and tools outside. And there is a garden like those the pioneer women cultivated.

The dedication of the village on the national holiday marked the completion of about half the buildings projected. Others will be erected as funds are made available.

(Continued on page 2)

## Where Lincoln First Felt Urgings of Ambition



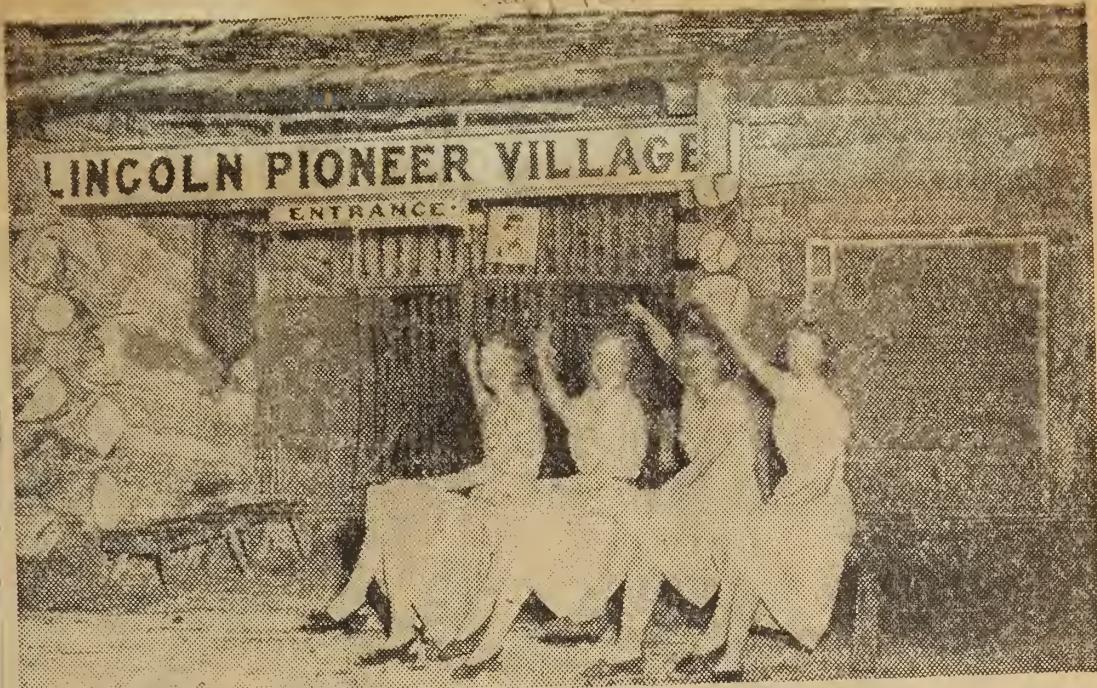
Upper Left: Home of Azell Dorsey, Who Was a Teacher of Abraham Lincoln, in Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport, Ind. Upper Right: A Garden in the Lincoln Pioneer Village Near Azell Dorsey Home. Bottom: John Pitcher's Law Office in Rockport, Ind., From Which Abraham Lincoln Borrowed Books.



Old inn at  
Rockport, Indiana  
where Lincoln was  
a guest in 1844

⑥.





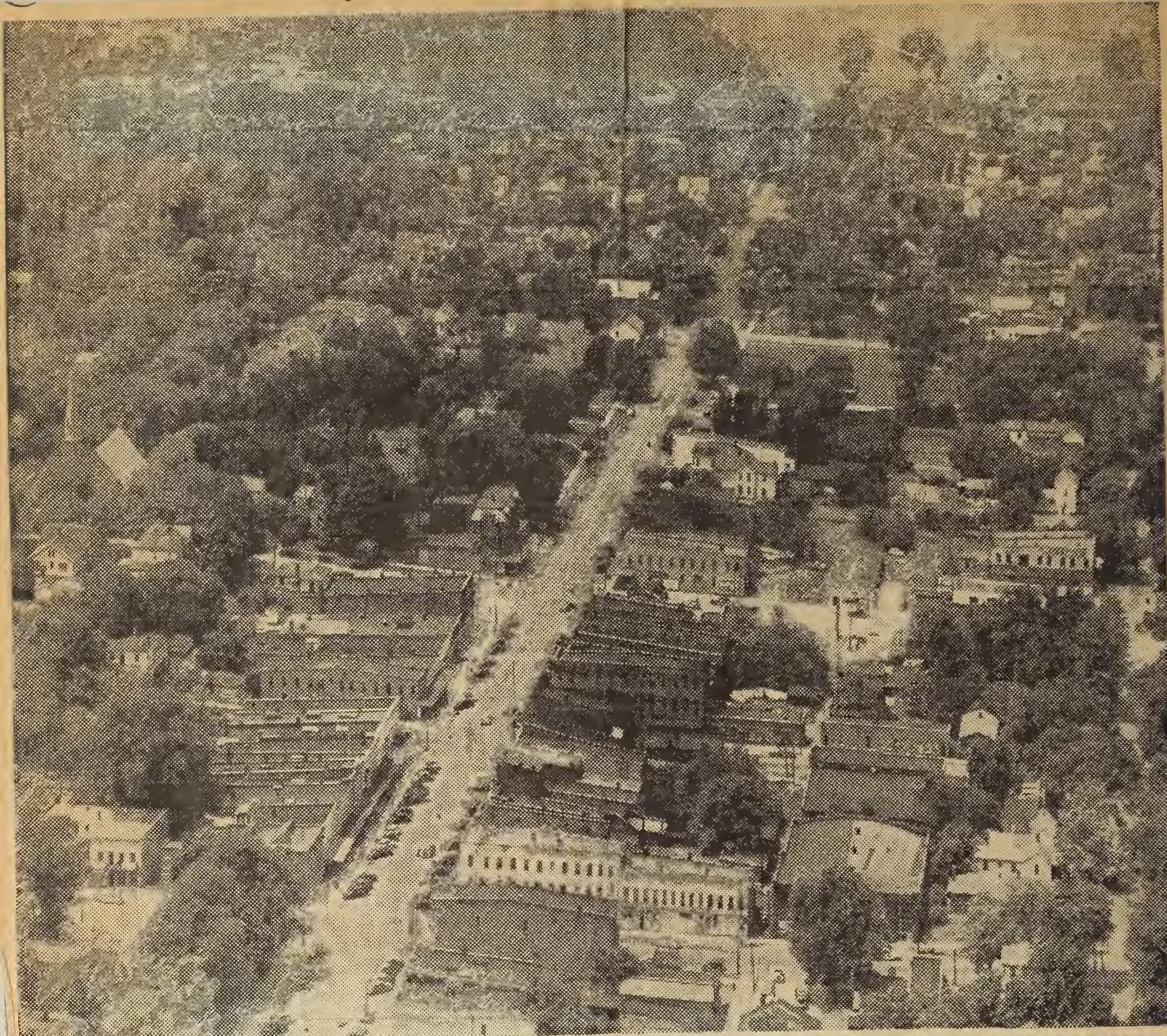
Above is the entrance to Lincoln Pioneer Village located just west of Rockport. In it are replicas of log cabins Abraham Lincoln was familiar with during his 14 years in Spencer County.

The village was built through the efforts of George H. Honig, native born artist and sculptor.

The girls shown in the picture are, left to right: Barbara Branch, Dottie Hargis, Mrs. Mary Ruth Parker and Lonise Parker.



Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, author, authority on local history and curator of the Spencer County Historical Society is shown above reading a monument dedicated to Abraham Lincoln. This marker was erected near the spot Lincoln left to take a flat boat trip to Louisiana.

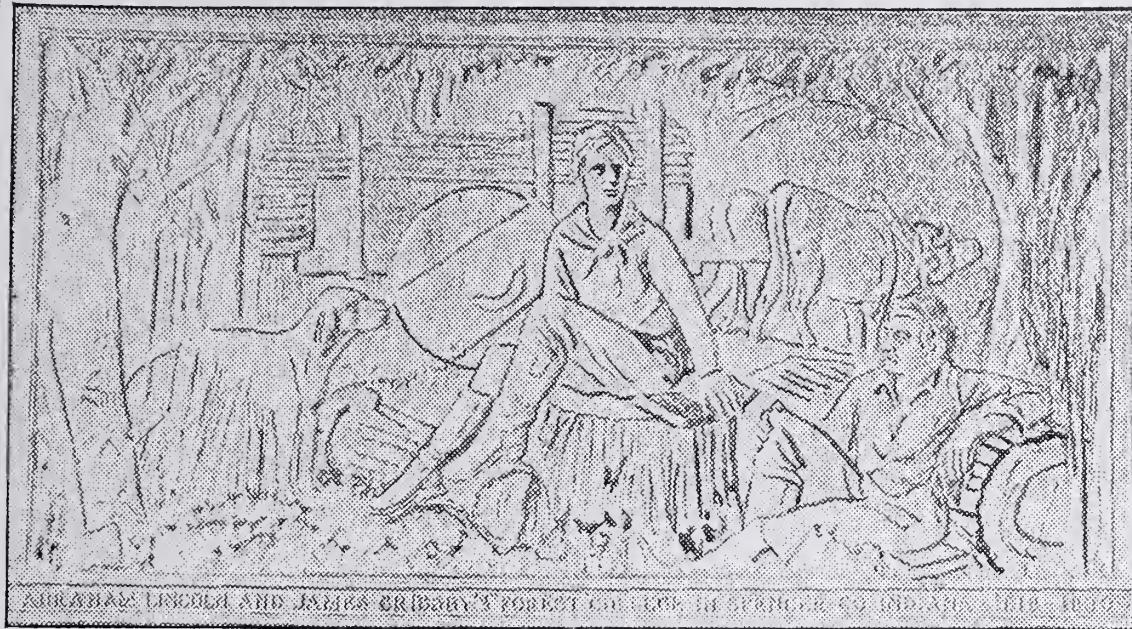


Here is the business district of Rockport, that sits south off Highway 66. Rockport is the Spencer County seat and a shopping center for over 20,000 people.

The town is situated high on a bluff overlooking the Ohio, and is rich in historical background.

Now increased to 152 active mem.

# Rockport Plans Elaborate Program For Unveiling of Sculptured Mural



LINCOLN "FOREST COLLEGE" MURAL BY HONIG

ROCKPORT, Oct. 27.—(Special). **G**EORGE HONIG'S sculptured mural, "Abraham Lincoln and James Grigsby's Forest College in Spencer county, Indiana, 1816 to 1830," will be unveiled in ceremonies in the high school auditorium the afternoon of Oct. 31.

The Rev. Stewart McClelland, president of Lincoln Memorial college, Harrogate, Tenn., will deliver the principal address on "Things Not Learned in Books." Mrs. Alta McCoy Honig, wife of the sculptor, will play a piano solo and Elijah Grigsby of Gentryville, a direct descendant of James Grigsby, will unveil the mural.

The mural, which is four and one-half feet high and eight and one-half feet long, was created by Honig after extensive research which included information gained first hand from A. M. Sweeney of Indianapolis, who is now 84 years old. Sweeney told this story:

#### TALKED WITH GRIGSBY

"In 1870 and 1871, when the railroad was being built through Spencer county, my three brothers and I were employed to do the grading for the railroad. I was often at the home of James Grigsby, who had been a friend and neighbor of Abraham Lincoln. Grigsby told me that he and 'Abe' loved books and that Aaron Grigsby, who later married Abraham's sister, Sarah, had been a student in a Kentucky school and had brought some books home. James Grigsby and Abraham Lincoln borrowed these books and went out to the forest to study them and hid them in a hollow log."

Sweeney said he was so impressed with their thirst for knowledge that he was inspired to gain a better education and studied at St. Meinrad seminary.

Honig said the mural represents a forest scene in the Lincoln City community of Spencer county, with Lincoln and Grigsby studying. The mural also shows an ox team and wagon loaded with hoop poles used for split bands on tubs and oak stave barrels. A dog also is pictured standing in rapt attention as though he recognized the sacredness of the moment.

#### ALL DAY CELEBRATION

The mural dedication program is sponsored by the Spencer County Historical society and the county public school system. Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, Lincoln pageant writer, is president of the historical society and Mrs. Eugenia S. Hayden is county superintendent. T. V. Pruitt is city school superintendent.

It is planned to make the celebration an all-day affair. High school students will be present from Grandview, Chrisney, Dale, Richland and Gentryville and will have a picnic dinner at noon in the lower auditorium of the courthouse. Distinguished guests will be dinner guests of the Kiwanis club.

Professor Ross H. Lockridge of Bloomington, Indiana university history instructor, will give a recital at the Lincoln flatboat landing in Rockyside park at 10:30 o'clock in the morning. It was from this landing that Lincoln started on his first flatboat trip, going with Allen Gentry to New Orleans. It was on this trip

that it was said of Lincoln that he saw slaves sold and determined that if he ever had an opportunity to "hit the evil he would hit it hard."

The Evansville college chorus will sing songs used at the time the Lincoln family lived in Spencer county, from 1816 to 1830.

Among the distinguished visitors at the dedication ceremonies will be Sweeney, who told Honig his story about the "Lincoln and Grigsby forest college."

At the morning session, starting at 10:30 o'clock at the Lincoln flatboat landing on the Ohio river, a historical recital will be given by Prof. Ross Lockridge of Indiana university. The following program has been arranged:

Opening remarks, Mrs. C. D. Ehrmann, president of the Spencer County Historical society; invocation, the Rev. Earl Courter, pastor of the Trinity Lutheran church; words of welcome, T. C. Basye, president *emeritus* of the historical society; Music of Lincoln's time in Indiana, Evansville college chorus under the direction of Prof. I. M. Blackburn; address, "Lincoln's Ohio River Contacts," Professor Lockridge; music, Evansville college chorus; benediction, the Rev. Homer Page of the Methodist Episcopal church.

At the Kiwanis club luncheon at noon guest speakers will be President Stewart McClelland of Lincoln memorial university, Harrogate, Tenn., President Earl E. Harper of Evansville college, and Professor Lockridge. Prof. T. V. Pruitt will preside at the

# Mural of "Abraham Lincoln's Forest College"



Dedicated October 31, 1934.

In modeling the sculptured mural "Abraham Lincoln's Forest College in Spencer county, Indiana, 1816 to 1830," for the Rockport high school, I had in mind doing what Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann has often done, to bring a message of certain facts to the world in order to correct the wrong impression of our historians, writers and Lincoln biographers have been passing out to the public, namely, that the Lincolns were paupers, too poor to live well, etc.

I do not mean that the pioneers had great luxuries as we today view things, however they had sufficient good food to live a healthy life,

Yes, Abe kept his books in a hollow log in the woods and often when his soul craved inspiration he would seek this sacred spot among the "monarchs of the for-

est" and this he called his "Forest school," to one with an open mind and a desire to conceive its teachings. As a boy in Spencer county, Indiana, Abraham Lincoln seems to have understood and sensed all of this and the divine power of his Creator.

In this forest school Abe had able teachers to remind him of the beauties of nature and the handiwork of God, they were not human but spiritual teachers such as the sturdy oak which grew from a tiny acorn, the sugar maple tree which with the coming of Spring produced maple water to supply their maple syrup and candy for the year; the poplar tree often six to seven feet in diameter, which bears the lovely tulip flower; the official state flower of Indiana; the wild cherry and many other specimens of trees, shrubs, wild flowers

Thus a forest college can reveal many things "not learned in

George H. Honig, Sculptor.

In the woods around Lincoln City, Abraham Lincoln, the "Hosier" believed in himself and craved expression for his innermost thoughts. And that is the message I wish to bring to the boys and girls of the Rockport high school where I, too, learned that intelligent effort and hard work will bring success in life. As you daily pass by the sculptured mural remember that Abraham Lincoln, ever has a watchful, a kindred soul and a sympathetic interest in your welfare and future success.

GEORGE H. HONIG.  
Rockport, Ind. Nov. 8, 1934.

## PROGRAM

**MORNING SESSION, 10:30 A. M.**  
**Lincoln Flatboat Landing on Ohio**  
"Historical Lincoln Flatboat Landing"—Recital by Prof. Ross Lockridge of Indiana University and Supervisor of Adult Education under the Emergency Relief Administration of Indiana.

**Opening Remarks**—Mrs. C. D. Ehrmann, President of Spencer Co. Historical Society.

**Invocation**—Rev. Earl H. Courter, Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockport.

**Words of Welcome**—T. C. Basye, President Emeritus Spencer Co. Historical Society.

**Music of Lincoln's Time in Indiana, 1816-1830**—Evansville College Chorus under the direction of Prof. I. M. Blackburn.

**Address, "Lincoln's Ohio River Contacts"**—Prof. Ross Lockridge.

**Music**—Evansville College Chorus.

**Benediction**—Rev. Homer R. Page,

Methodist Episcopal Church, Rockport.

**Kiwanis Noon Luncheon**. Guest speakers: President Stewart McClelland of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee; President Earl Harper of Evansville College, and Prof. Ross Lockridge, Indiana University. Music by the Evansville College Chorus. Prof. T. V. Pruitt presiding.

**AFTERNOON SESSION, 2:00 P. M.**  
**Rockport High School Auditorium**  
Master of Ceremonies—Superintendent of Rockport Public Schools, Prof. T. V. Pruitt.

**Invocation**—Rev. Homer R. Page. Welcome Address—Mrs. Eugenia Hayden, Superintendent Spencer County Public Schools.

**Piano Solo**—Mrs. Alda McCay Honig

**Music**—Evansville College Chorus.

**Address, "Things Not Learned In School"**—President Stewart McClelland of Lincoln Memorial

University, Harrogate, Tenn. **Mention of An Historic Date**—C. T. Baker, Grandview. **Remarks**—Pres. Earl Harper and Prof. Ross Lockridge. **Presentation of the Distinguished Guests**, including Mr. George Honig, Sculptor, and Andrew M. Sweeney, Indianapolis—Mrs. C. D. Ehrmann.

**Unveiling of Mr. George Honig's Public Works of Art Project**, a sculptured Mural, "Abraham Lincoln and James Grigsby's Forest College in Spencer County, Indiana, 1816-1830," by Eli Grigsby, whose ancestor is portrayed in the mural.

**Benediction**—Rev. Earl H. Courter

## SOPHOMORE NEWS

Lotus Harman spent the weekend with Mary Frieda Bumpus.

In our history class we had a test covering all we had studied about the Greeks.

—  
**G**EORGE HONIG, sculptor and designer of the Lincoln Village at Rockport, reports a steady increase in visitors from all parts of this country. Recently a man from Sweden came to see the village after reading about it in a New York paper. Mr. Honig has been collecting Lincoln data for 25 years.

# INDIANA DEDICATES LINCOLN 'LOG' TOWN

Pioneer Village, Built and Furnished in Manner of the Past, Is Opened at Rockport.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROCKPORT, Ind., July 4.—The Lincoln Pioneer Village was dedicated here today as Southern Indiana's celebration of Independence Day.

A straggling row of log houses of the kind which dotted this wilderness 100 years ago, the village was built and furnished by the citizens of this community, with many of the furnishings coming from their own attics. The citizens crowded the old stockade today, recapturing the atmosphere of the ox-cart pioneers and the boyhood days of Lincoln.

This pioneer village, like the New Salem State Park, in Illinois, where Lincoln's young manhood was spent, commemorates the former President's early years of study and striving. Here, coming across the Ohio with his parents and sister at the age of 7, Lincoln lived what Carl Sandberg called the "fourteen fiercely formative years of his life." Indiana takes pride in this, and for fifteen years local historians have been studying all the records dealing with the tall boy who here strove to develop the strength and courage that marked his later years.

With the pioneer village, Rockport marks an important link in the long Lincoln trail that began in the cabin of his birth across the river in Kentucky, followed the old roads through Spencer County, Ind., into the Sangamon country of Illinois and then on to Springfield and Washington.

Today's pilgrimage began for many, most properly, at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, which lies only seventeen miles above Rockport. The "milk sickness" took her away from Abraham and Sarah only two years after Thomas Lincoln's wanderings had brought them into this new land.

A few years ago a rail fence marked off the little green plot. Today it is wrought iron with the old plain wedge shaped headstone still there and the simple inscription—Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Lincoln, October 8, 1818, aged 35 years.

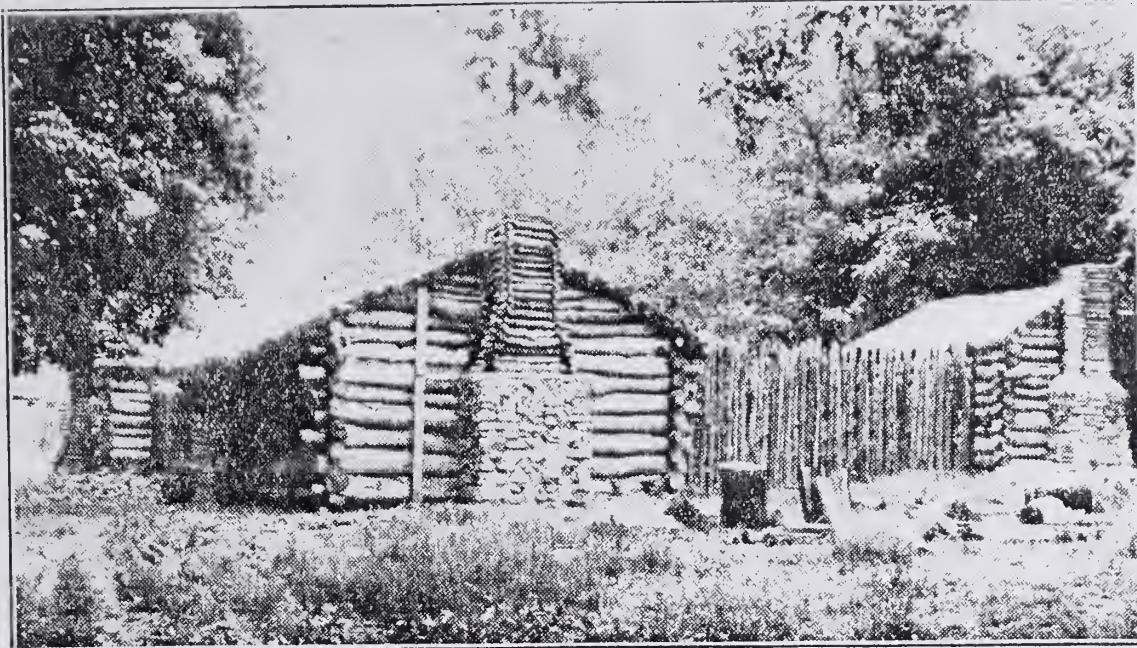
The Lincoln cabin, long since gone, was only half a mile away, and it was to this grave, and that of his sister Sarah, near by, that Lincoln, just 21 years old, paid his farewell visit in the Fall of 1830 when he took the Wilderness road toward Illinois and new shores.

A cool, shady trail leads through the woods from the grave to the old homesite. Here there is being built a replica in bronze of the foundation and fireplace of the original home. This is the work of the Indiana Lincoln Memorial Union, distinct from the Rockport Village project. It is being built in a little open rise among the trees, surrounded by a low stone wall, with stone benches for visitors.

Down the road a little way is the old Pigeon Creek Church, where Thomas Lincoln and his family used to go to hear the Baptist preachers. The old log church, which the Lincolns helped support by contributions of corn and produce, is gone but a little square white structure, typical of country churches, has taken its place, with the same old hard wooden benches, an oil lamp hanging from the ceiling, and a base-burner in the centre of the room.

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1935

## New Lincoln Memorial in Indiana To Be Dedicated Today



Herald Tribune photo—Acme

*The Lincoln Pioneer Village, a national memorial to the martyred Civil War President, in the city park of Rockport, Ind., near the place where Abraham Lincoln lived from his seventh to his twenty-first year, will be dedicated today. The community as he knew it has been reconstructed*



Photograph by Willard R. Culver

THE "LINCOLN PIONEER VILLAGE" AS RECONSTRUCTED IN THE CITY PARK AT ROCKPORT, ON THE OHIO

Observe the solid wooden wheels of the oxcart and the "mover wagon." Also there is the stockade, for Indian defense, and the open well with the teetering pole for drawing water. Log huts and a chopping block in the right foreground complete this picture of early-day Hoosier life. From the age of 7 to 21, Lincoln lived in such a village in Spencer County.

Allen went with father

# Lincoln's First Flat boat Trip Down River To New Orleans Made From Rockport in 1828

2/9/36

Accompanied Friend and Neighbor, Allen Gentry, on Adventure That Was to Plant Seed of Opposition to Slavery in His Heart

By BESS V. EHREMMAN  
President, Spencer County Historical Society

FROST was in the air, water lapping the sides of the flatboat. The two tall young men standing on the river bank, where the boat was tied up, were impatient to be off but were being restrained and cautioned by the older man with them. He James Gentry, a large landowner of Spencer county, Indiana, had made numerous trips down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers with his cargos of farm products. He knew well the dangers and hazards of such a journey.

His son, Allen, to whom he was now addressing his words of counsel, had made one trip to New Orleans with his father but the brawny big hicker, Abe Lincoln, a neighbor's son, had never been but a few miles from his Spencer county home; true, he had made the overland journey from his birthplace in Kentucky to the Indiana wilderness, when he was a child seven, and he still remembered the wonders of that trip and the ferrying of the mighty Ohio, it had looked like a veritable ocean to his childlike eyes.

## HIS FIRST JOURNEY

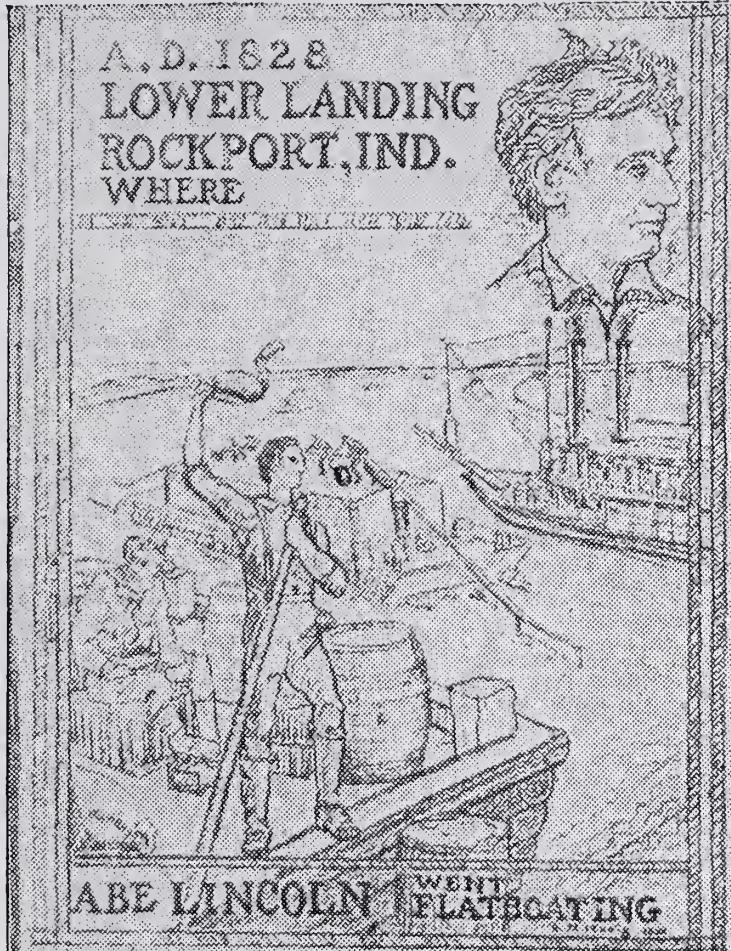
Now he was a grown man and he was to make his first journey into the big world with his friend and neighbor, Allen Gentry. He had been here in the little village of Rockport for two weeks helping the Gentry men to prepare and load the flatboat for its long trip.

Allen Gentry lived on a farm near the river landing in Rockport, a farm bought in 1826 by James Gentry for his son, Allen, so that their shipping could be made easier for them, as the family home with its broad acres of farm land was 17 miles from Rockport, the main shipping point on the river for Spencer county.

Absalom Roby, his wife, Polly, and their two daughters, Ann and Elizabeth, had come to Rockport from their home near the Gentrys to keep house for Allen soon after his cabin home had been finished in Rockport. Ann, Elizabeth and Allen had attended the same pioneer school and played together when children as had Abe Lincoln. Both Lincoln and Allen had been ardent admirers of Ann from their earliest childhood, but now Ann had given her heart to Allen, although she had a great friendship for the big awkward Abe. Early in the year of 1828 they had been married, vowing to take each other for better or for worse, as long as life should last.

## DATE EASILY REMEMBERED

Now we see Ann joining the men on the river bank, coming down the hill from the log cabin home to say



her last good bye." In her arms she holds her two weeks old son, "James Allen," born December 17, 1828. The coming of this first born had delayed the southern trip as Allen had refused to go until he knew all was well at home. Many years later when Lincoln became famous, the Gentrys were always to remember the date of this particular flatboat trip from the birthdate of the eldest son. Abe, in an awkward manner, asks to hold the "little feller" and looking down into the tiny face, then at Ann he said, "Well, Ann, he's a right pert youngster."

Then, Allen kissing her a last good-bye said "Take care of him, honey, and I'll soon be home again." With a last admonition from James Gentry and goodbyes said, the two young men loosened the boat from its moorings and the boat slowly moved out upon the waters of the beautiful Ohio on its way to the southern markets.

## ATTACKED BY LAWLESS BAND

Many weeks were spent on the trip South and one night when tied up for the night a lawless band of Negroes took possession of the boat and almost killed Allen and Abe. Abe's great arms made strong by swinging an ax, were used to good advantage and the Negroes were routed but Abe ever after carried a deep scar on his head from this fight.

At last the journey was ended and the wonders of New Orleans claimed the attention of these two pioneer backwoodsmen. One day as they were walking along the street a crowd attracted their attention and they drew near to see what was going on. A man was making a speech and offering for sale a young Negro woman standing on a huge block used for the slave market. The two men were horrified and as the girl, with tears streaming down her face, was given to the highest bidder, young Abe, in a frenzy of anger turned to his friend and said: "If I ever get a chance to hit that thing I'll hit it hard," referring to the sale of humans.

## SPOKE PROPHETIC WORDS

Prophetic words spoken by a young man, little dreaming that the time would come when he would be the emancipator of this slave race. Always the scene of this slave market was to remain in Lincoln's mind, and many years later, Jan. 19, 1860, he wrote a letter to a friend, Alexander H. Stephens of Springfield, Illinois, in which was this statement: "When a boy I went to New Orleans on a flatboat and there I saw slavery and slave markets as I had never seen them in Kentucky and I heard worse of the Red River plantations."

The two young men, Gentry and Lincoln, returned to their homes and two years later, 1830, Abe Lincoln

Emancipator as President Recalled Voyage and Scenes of Slave Markets in Southern Metropolis and Their Effect Upon Him

moved to Illinois with his family.

Today the memory of Abraham Lincoln is revered in every country in the world and every place connected with his life has become a sacred shrine. Thousands visit the old Ohio river boat landing in Rockport yearly, the place where he left on that first memorable trip, and in the city park in the quaint old town there was dedicated July 4, 1935, a most unusual memorial to his 14 formative years spent in Spencer county. It is a pioneer log cabin village, a replica of the pioneer villages in Spencer county when Lincoln roamed the hills and valleys. It was conceived and built by an artist and sculptor, George H. Long with FERA labor.

## MANY PIONEER BUILDINGS

There is the log cabin church with quaint old benches patterned after those made by a nephew of Daniel Boone for a church at Corydon, Indiana, about 1812. A pioneer store where Lincoln once clerked as a boy, the log cabin law office of John Pitcher, who loaned him books, a pioneer school house such as Lincoln knew with its puncheon seats, the Gentry mansion, a two-story log house where Lincoln had the opportunity to observe the graces of daily living as practiced by these aristocratic and wealthy pioneers, the home of Azel Dorsey, one of Abe Lincoln's teachers and where the first court of Spencer county was held, the first log cabin inn in Rockport and several homes of early settlers. All this in a century old setting of huge beech trees carries one back to that time, when a boy was growing up in this wilderness land, who was later to change the destiny of a nation.

Across from the village a lake is being made and on the waters of this lake will float a replica of the Gentry flatboat, a reminder to visitors of that momentous trip of Lincoln's to New Orleans in 1828.

Indiana citizens like to think of Abraham Lincoln as a "Hoosier" for here his youth was spent. This has been expressed so well in the poetic lines of the late Albion Fellows Bacon of Evansville.

"Great Lincoln, neighbor of an earlier time,  
The world your manhood claims, to us alone  
Belongs your youth. We reach back eager hands  
To clasp your own.

We send our loving thought to that grave lad  
Whom all men loved—kind, gentle, thoughtful, true,  
Our 'Nature's gentleman.' As you were then,  
We honor you."

## TAVERN WHERE LINCOLN SLEPT STILL STANDING

186  
(Evansville Press, April 26, 1936)

Rockport, Ind., April 25. (Special Correspondent) The old Rockport Tavern, where Abraham Lincoln slept when he visited here October 30, 1844 still stands unchanged after ninety-two years.

It is known today as the Sargent House, property of the heirs of John Sargent, who bought it in 1860. It is a two-story gray brick structure, with a one-story veranda in front and a frame addition in the rear.

It stands opposite the southeast corner of the court house square, on a high bluff overlooking the river.

The original building, constructed by Daniel Brown in 1832, consisted of four rooms, two on each floor, with a fireplace in each.

Lincoln had the upstairs room nearest the river. You can see it just as it was when he stayed there, with new paper on the walls, but otherwise unchanged.

Ten years ago the Rockport Business and Professional Women's Club erected a stone marker on the spot. It reads, "Rockport Tavern. Built in 1832. Where Abraham Lincoln, a Clay elector, was a guest in 1844."

As the only building in Spencer county today where it is definitely known Lincoln stayed, the old tavern has special interest. A "for rent" sign hangs in the window—but it is not for sale.

Lincoln's visit to Rockport that day is told in an old newspaper owned by Charles T. Baker, editor of The Grandview Monitor.

It is the November 1, 1844, issue of The Rockport Herald, edited by James C. Veatch, and is the oldest existing copy of a Spencer county newspaper.

Mr. Veatch wrote:

"Mr. Lincoln, of Springfield, Ill., addressed a large and respectable audience at the court house on Wednesday evening last, upon the Whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of a protective tariff. He handled that subject in a manner that done honor to himself and the Whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in a like manner. His speech was plain, argumentative and of an hour's duration. When he closed, Mr. J. Pitcher (Judge John Pitcher, Lincoln's old friend) arose and delivered a speech in his forcible and powerful manner. He exhibited the Democratic policies in an unenviable light, at least we thought so."

Lincoln's visit in 1844 was his first to Spencer county since leaving it as a youth of twenty-one, just fourteen years before. He was now thirty-five.

He was an elector for Henry Clay, who was the Whig candidate for president, and came to Rockport on the last leg of the long trip that brought him from Illinois through New Albany, Vincennes, Washington and Boonville.

The late Squire J. L. Stewart of Rockport was an errand boy of fourteen at the tavern, and later described Lincoln as he appeared that day:

"It was early fall. He came in town on horseback, alone. He was gangling tall and awkward looking, wearing a brownish suit of clothes and a fur cap. He spoke at the court house that afternoon. There was a good crowd on hand."

There were four old friends here he wanted to see again—Allen Gentry, with whom he made the flatboat voyage to New Orleans in 1828; Judge Pitcher, who had loaned him books; Colonel William Jones, friend and employer; and Josiah Crawford, near neighbor of the Lincolns, for whom both Lincoln and his sister, Sarah, had worked.

He paid visits to the graves of his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and his sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, both of whom died and were buried at Lincoln City.

Lincoln was now well established as a lawyer, and had four times been elected to the Illinois Legislature. He had married Mary Todd two years before.

The stump campaign of 1844 established his reputation as a political orator, and he was henceforth known as one of the soundest and most effective Whig speakers in the West.

According to reason and local tradition there is another house that has sheltered Lincoln in the south part of the county, perhaps two. He worked for Ben Romaine as a youth, and there is still standing a log cabin on the old Romaine farm that undoubtedly sheltered Abe as it was the home of his fellow employee, Harvey Isaac. He may also have been entertained in the Lahue home nearby, which is also still standing.

Abraham Lincoln surely did not sleep a full eight hours in the Sar-

gent tavern for the reason that, according to tradition, he had borrowed a copy of Reed's *Life of Washington* from William Kelley, near Yellow Banks (now Grandview), and left the book with his friend, Reuben Grigsby, the next day. The horse he rode may have been borrowed from Redmond Grigsby, as he was entertained by him following the speech near or at Buffaloville previous to the Rockport speech.—Editor.

# Lincoln's First Flat boat Trip Down River To New Orleans Made From Rockport in 1828

Evening Star, April 27, 1936

Accompanied Friend and Neighbor, Allen Gentry, on Adventure That Was to Plant Seed of Opposition to Slavery in His Heart

By BESS V. EHREMAN  
President, Spencer County Historical Society

FROST was in the air, water lapping the sides of the flatboat. The two tall young men standing on the river bank, where the boat was tied up, were impatient to be off but were being restrained and cautioned by the older man with them. He James Gentry, a large landowner of Spencer county, Indiana, had made numerous trips down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers with his cargos of farm products. He knew well the dangers and hazards of such a journey.

His son, Allen, to whom he was now addressing his words of counsel, had made one trip to New Orleans with his father but the brawny big helper, Abe Lincoln, a neighbor's son, had never been but a few miles from his Spencer county home; true, he had made the overland journey from his birthplace in Kentucky to the Indiana wilderness, when he was a child seven, and he still remembered the wonders of that trip and the ferrying of the mighty Ohio, it had looked like a veritable ocean to his childish eyes.

## HIS FIRST JOURNEY

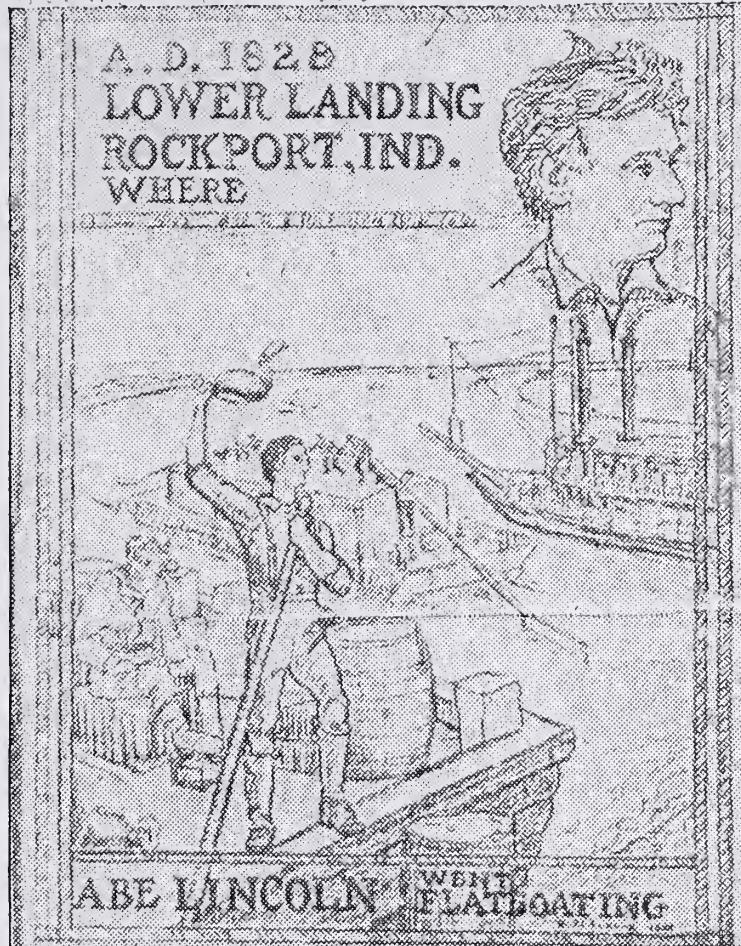
Now he was a grown man and he was to make his first journey into the big world with his friend and neighbor, Allen Gentry. He had been here in the little village of Rockport for two weeks helping the Gentry men to prepare and load the flatboat for its long trip.

Allen Gentry lived on a farm near the river landing in Rockport, a farm bought in 1826 by James Gentry for his son, Allen, so that their shipping could be made easier for them, as the family home with its broad acres of farm land was 17 miles from Rockport, the main shipping point on the river for Spencer county.

Absalom Roby, his wife, Polly, and their two daughters, Ann and Elizabeth, had come to Rockport from their home near the Gentrys to keep house for Allen soon after his cabin home had been finished in Rockport. Ann, Elizabeth and Allen had attended the same pioneer school and played together when children as had Abe Lincoln. Both Lincoln and Allen had been ardent admirers of Ann from their earliest childhood, but now Ann had given her heart to Allen, although she had a great friendship for the big awkward Abe. Early in the year of 1828 they had been married, vowing to take each other for better or for worse, as long as life should last.

## DATE EASILY REMEMBERED

Now we see Ann joining the men on the river bank, coming down the hill from the log cabin home to say



her last good bye. In her arms she holds her two weeks old son, "James Allen," born December 17, 1828. The coming of this first born had delayed the southern trip as Allen had refused to go until he knew all was well at home. Many years later when Lincoln became famous, the Gentrys were always to remember the date of this particular flatboat trip from the birthdate of the eldest son. Abe, in an awkward manner, asks to hold the "little feller" and looking down into the tiny face, then at Ann he said, "Well, Ann, he's a right pert youngster."

Then, Allen kissing her a last good-bye said "Take care of him, honey, and I'll soon be home again." With a last admonition from James Gentry and goodbyes said, the two young men loosened the boat from its moorings and the boat slowly moved out upon the waters of the beautiful Ohio on its way to the southern markets.

## ATTACKED BY LAWLESS BAND

Many weeks were spent on the trip South and one night when tied up for the night a lawless band of Negroes took possession of the boat and almost killed Allen and Abe. Abe's great arms made strong by swinging an ax, were used to good advantage and the Negroes were routed but Abe ever after carried a deep scar on his head from this fight.

At last the journey was ended and the wonders of New Orleans claimed the attention of these two pioneer backwoodsmen. One day as they were walking along the street a crowd attracted their attention and they drew near to see what was going on. A man was making a speech and offering for sale a young Negro woman standing on a huge block used for the slave market. The two men were horrified and as the girl, with tears streaming down her face, was given to the highest bidder, young Abe, in a frenzy of anger turned to his friend and said: "If I ever get a chance to hit that thing I'll hit it hard," referring to the sale of humans.

## SPKE PROPHETIC WORDS

Prophetic words spoken by a young man, little dreaming that the time would come when he would be the emancipator of this slave race. Always the scene of this slave market was to remain in Lincoln's mind, and many years later, Jan. 19, 1860, he wrote a letter to a friend, Alexander H. Stephens of Springfield, Illinois, in which was this statement: "When a boy I went to New Orleans on a flatboat and there I saw slavery and slave markets as I had never seen them in Kentucky and I heard worse of the Red River plantations."

The two young men, Gentry and Lincoln, returned to their homes and two years later, 1830, Abe Lincoln

Emancipator as President Recalled Voyage and Scenes of Slave Markets in Southern Metropolis and Their Effect Upon Him

moved to Illinois with his family.

Today the memory of Abraham Lincoln is revered in every country in the world and every place connected with his life has become a sacred shrine. Thousands visit the old Ohio river boat landing in Rockport yearly, the place where he left on that first memorable trip, and in the city park in the quaint old town there was dedicated July 4, 1935, a most unusual memorial to his 14 formative years spent in Spencer county. It is a pioneer log cabin village, a replica of the pioneer villages in Spencer county when Lincoln roamed the hills and valleys. It was conceived and built by an artist and sculptor, George H. Honig with FERA labor.

## MANY PIONEER BUILDINGS

There is the log cabin church with quaint old benches patterned after those made by a nephew of Daniel Boone for a church at Corydon, Indiana, about 1812. A pioneer store where Lincoln once clerked as a boy, the log cabin law office of John Pitcher, who loaned him books, a pioneer school house such as Lincoln knew with its puncheon seats, the Gentry mansion, a two-story log house where Lincoln had the opportunity to observe the graces of daily living as practiced by these aristocratic and wealthy pioneers, the home of Azel Dorsey, one of Abe Lincoln's teachers and where the first court of Spencer county was held, the first log cabin inn in Rockport and several homes of early settlers. All this in a century old setting of huge beech trees carries one back to that time, when a boy was growing up in this wilderness land, who was later to change the destiny of a nation.

Across from the village a lake is being made and on the waters of this lake will float a replica of the Gentry flatboat, a reminder to visitors of that momentous trip of Lincoln's to New Orleans in 1828.

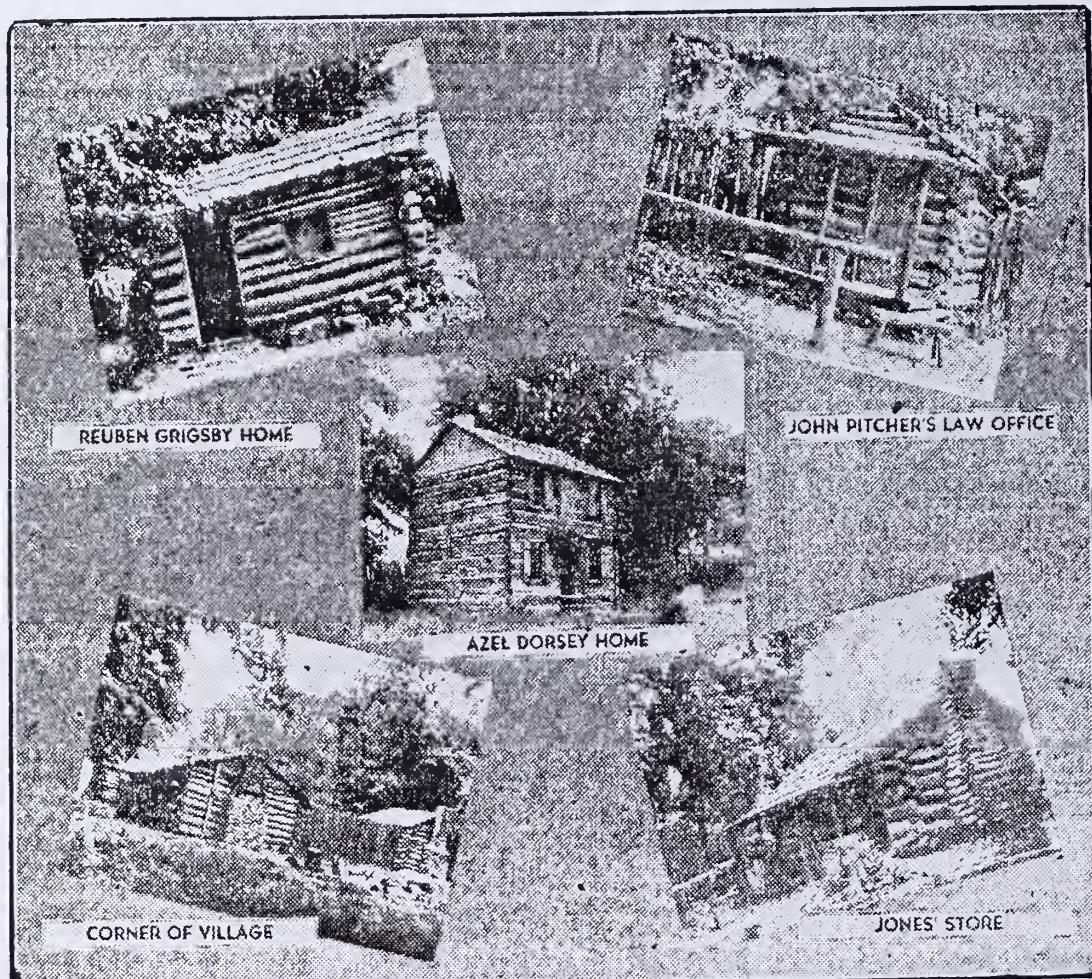
Indiana citizens like to think of Abraham Lincoln as a "Hoosier" for here his youth was spent. This has been expressed so well in the poetic lines of the late Albion Fellows Bacon of Evansville.

"Great Lincoln, neighbor of an earlier time,  
The world your manhood claims, to us alone  
Belongs your youth. We reach back eager hands  
To clasp your own."

We send our loving thought to that grave lad  
Whom all men loved—kind, gentle, thoughtful, true,  
Our 'Nature's gentleman.' As you were then,  
We honor you."

6/30/36 ILLINOIS STATE JOURNAL, SPRINGFIELD

## *Lincoln Pioneer Village At Rockport, Ind.*



The Lincoln pioneer village at Rockport, Ind., erected to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, who lived in Spencer county, Ind., from 1816 to 1830, was dedicated July 4, 1935. The village covers a four-acre tract

in which replicas of ten buildings that played an important part in the formative period of Lincoln's life have been reconstructed. They are: The Azel Dorsey home, center, where the first court in Spencer county was held; John Pitcher's law

office, upper right, from which Lincoln borrowed books; the home of Reuben Grigsby, upper left, who married Lincoln's sister, Sarah; Jones' store, lower right, where Lincoln worked as a clerk; and a corner of the village, lower left.

# Along the Lincoln Trail

Spencer County, Indiana, Where Pilgrims Find a Restored Village



WHERE LINCOLN STUDIED

A replica of the home of Azel Dorsey, in the "Lincoln Pioneer Village," Rockport, Ind. Dorsey, in the original of this house, was Lincoln's teacher for a few months.

By MALCOLM McDOWELL

**R**OCKPORT, Ind.—In the Fall of 1816, when "Abe" was seven years old, his father, Thomas, and mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, moved to Spencer County, Ind., where the family began clearing the forest for a farm about 17 miles above Rockport. The homestead is one of the "blazes" identifying the Lincoln history trail. Here Lincoln, the lad, was a youthful Indiana pioneer for 14 strenuous years.

The first home was a temporary structure made of saplings, open to the weather on one side and known as a half-front camp. The following year a log cabin, without windows, door or wooden floor, was put up. Here "Abe" helped his father, did odd jobs for neighbors, working for 25 cents a day; here he read the few books he could borrow, sprawled before the log fire. Here his mother died and was buried in the forest by her husband and son.

For many years her grave was neglected, but now it is marked by the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial. Adjoining is the Lincoln State Park, which includes the original homestead and log cabin site. The cabin long since

has gone to dust but its memory lives in an eight-ton bronze fireplace, with its logs and ashes, standing on the old cabin site in the forest. And to this area come the Lincoln pilgrims, thousands of men, women and children, who tour Spencer County, to view the Lincolniana of which the "Lincoln Pioneer Village" at Rockport is the popular exhibit.

This village, dedicated July 4, 1935, is a group of log houses, replicas of the sort that were put up by the Spencer County pioneers a century ago and which had been "touched" by young Abe Lincoln, giving them the intimate quality which qualified them to be "restored" as units of the village. A copy of the Lincoln home cabin is here and one also of the old Pigeon Creek Baptist Church which Tom Lincoln and his son helped to build.

A reconstruction of the Azel Dorsey home is a most important unit of the collection; Dorsey, a county official at the time, kept school in his home and there the Lincoln lad was given some rudimentary education. Another feature of the village is the replica of the two-story log house of Daniel Grass, founder of Rockport.

(Copyright, 1937, N. A. N. A., Inc.)

---

### BRIDGE APPROACH CONTRACT LETTING ANNOUNCED

---

The Spencer County Bridge Commission, through its attorney, L. N. Savage, of Rockport, has announced the awarding of the contract for the approach levee on the Kentucky side of the Ohio river to Guy S. Martin, of St. Louis, Mo.

This is for the bridge across the Ohio river at Rockport which Prof. A. H. Kennedy has promoted so long and faithfully. He has promoted various feeders for the bridge, and witnessed the collapse of various attempts to finance and support the project; but has never given up hope of its ultimate construction. It begins to appear that his efforts will materialize.

The approach is about two miles in length and will connect with highway No. 70 on the Kentucky side.

It is said the bridge will cost approximately \$1,500,000, and bonds to the amount of \$1,330,000 have been sold to the Bidding-Jones Company, investment bankers of St. Louis; and contracts for the building of the span will soon be let.

The Indiana approach to this bridge will require very little work as the abutment will be on the high, rocky bluff at Rockport.

*Unnumbered 7-28-16*

# BOYHOOD TOWN OF LINCOLN GOES ON AS OF OLD

But Its Youth Discusses  
Today's Problems.

BY PHILIP KINSLEY.

*Ye who search for the Hidden Springs,  
Ye who look for a sign,  
Ye who worship at Freedom's feet,  
Here is her holiest shrine.  
Here grew a new democracy,  
Here was the eagle's nest,  
Where his wings grew strong for his  
after flight—  
Here in our middle west.*

—From "Lincoln," by Abigail Fellows Bagon.  
Copyright 1936 by Abigail Fellows Bagon.  
(Reprinted from yesterday's late editions.)

Rockport, Ind., Oct. 17.—[Special.]—It is sunset along the Ohio river. Negroes are dozing beside their catfish lines flung into the brown current. The lines are hung with little bells to awaken them. An occasional boat drifts by. Women are calling the children to supper. The evening breeze rustles in the old tree tops and a mist arises against the red glow from the Kentucky shore. These are the enduring things.

Lights are gleaming in the streets of the town where Lincoln walked as a boy, where he saw his first oil lamp. The town to which he came from the home of his father, 17 miles away, to borrow books from Judge John Pletcher. The town from which he set forth on his flat boat trip to New Orleans to see the world of trade and slavery.

#### The Changeable Things.

Tonight the radio is blaring from the corner drug store about Europe and Washington. They actually heard Hitler's voice in these streets recently. Automobiles and airplanes are commonplace. These are the changeable things.

In searching for the forces that are moving American youth today along lines that forecast the future of this republic we must first learn of environment. No one can know the hidden springs of individual inheritance, but environment must be credited with at least a 50 per cent influence in the formation of character.

The middle west rural environment today carries on from the Lincoln tradition. The spirit of this farm boy, who lived here from 1816 to 1830, from his 7th to his 22d year, is an unconscious participant in the present outlook of youth, new pioneers in an economic wilderness.

#### Writer Tells Lincoln's Way.

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann of this town, who has spent many years in research and writing about Lincoln's formative years, puts it this way:

"Amid the confusion of the present, we are able to keep peace in our souls, to learn the lessons of the years and know that he who shall come to the best in life must give to the world his best, as did Abraham Lincoln.

"We learn from him to meet bravely whatever comes [it was here that Lincoln worked in the cornfields for 10 cents a day, then read books by firelight in the evening]; to stand alone unafraid, for God has sent each person to serve his plan; so we must do the right as we see it and be ourselves."

The view of Lincoln which is important is that he did not come like a star out of heaven to shine above a backwoods people, but that he was made largely by his life here, among a plain, candid, straightforward people; that he acquired from this life toughness, tenacity, idealism, and moral quality of character; that he rose above poverty and lack of education. Until now, at least, this has been the essential meaning of America to all youth. Are they beginning to soften and to doubt it? Let us look around.

#### Youth Troubled by Changes.

Mrs. Ehrmann has a son, Carlos, 29 years old, who works for a rubber company in Hot Springs, Ark. She

## WPA SEWER PROJECT STOPPED BY BUILDING TRADES SYMPATHIZERS

Terre Haute, Ind., Oct. 18.—[Special.]—Work on the \$465,000 Walnut street sewer, a WPA project, was halted today when a crowd of several hundred persons forced the crew to leave their jobs.

Charles Deets, Lafayette, district WPA director, was notified and came here to talk with WPA officials. In a recent conference here with Deets, Virgil Morris of the Terre Haute Building Trades council, said:

"We protest against invasion of the building trades field by WPA. We agree that WPA is paying the prevailing hourly wage rate, but we do want to point out that the fixed monthly security rate that limits our monthly earnings in work that we believe should belong to us is unfair and unjust."

describes him as a conservative young man, well versed in economics and history, but troubled about conditions today. Her daughter, at the University of Indiana, had trouble about the old time religion. Evolution and other theories disturbed her and it seemed, she wrote, as if all her beliefs and faith from early life had been uprooted.

This touches probably the most vital problem of youth, or their elders, too, for that matter. For no human personality can develop its powers without faith in a greater power. As Spencer showed in "First Principles," both science and religion meet in the unknown. It is the technique of religion to bring this unknown into the human plane. Old cosmologies must go, but not this.

The winds of doubt were abroad in this land even in Lincoln's time. Out of New Harmony, a few miles away, a liberal and nonsectarian religion was putting forth its wings. The old struggled on, for it has too much truth in it to die, but here is the front line of the future, for teachers and colleges and homes.

Down the street in a handy restaurant is a girl waitress who is a descendant of a neighbor of the Lincolns.

"A Remarkable Young Man." "The neighbors didn't think much of Lincoln," she said. "No more than that of that young man behind the counter," it is suggested.

"That is a remarkable young man," she says.

This young man is William Wetzel, whose father runs the restaurant.

At odd times while working at the counter, as Lincoln worked once in the stores of this neighborhood, young Wetzel discusses life and its problems. He is an amateur radio fan, who talks by code with other young men in England and other parts of the world, something Lincoln never dreamed of. He did not go to college, he says, because he had seen so many go and come back with little to do. He figures they are not as well off as he is. His brother went to college in Evansville and is now working winters only, on a citrus farm in Florida.

"I guess I'll stay in business here,"

he says. "And no war for me. History shows a nation never gains anything by war. They will have an awful time dragging me off to Europe. I wouldn't fight unless we were picked on first."

#### Doubts Advantage of Luxuries.

"There are many things in the world I don't like. I am a Democrat, but I vote for the man, not the party. Life is getting so complicated we can't live with it. We think we are better off than the pioneers but I think, although they had less, they were happier. If we had fewer cars and other luxuries we would be better off."

Youth is not ordinarily very articulate. A young man of this town who is recommended as able to express himself is Paul Mason. Paul is a dark haired pleasant faced young lawyer who was graduated from the University of Indiana. He came back here to his father's office seven years ago to take up the burdens of business. Then his father died and he was left with the whole burden.

"I can't sleep nights for the troubles of my clients," he says. "Some of these are tax cases. Some companies have to pay out three-quarters of their incomes in taxes, so they are just piddling along, making less in order to pay less. These new labor laws are about the worst things that ever happened to this country. I know a company that has been forced to take back laborers that tried to hurt and sabotage their business. If the government would let business alone it would be all right."

Here was a young man in a small Indiana town, not allied with great wealth, yet talking astonishingly like a Wall street broker.

#### Avoids Political Action.

"I am a Republican," he continued. "I recently declined to make a speech at the Kiwanis club on the constitution for fear that it might offend some of my friends. [He does not take to political action but attends to his law business.]

"I don't know what I can do about things except gripe. The speech I might have made would run something like this. This is a government founded on law and the balance of power. Our troubles are due to the President reaching out from his own executive power to control first the judiciary and then, through this purge, the legislative. If he succeeds we will be just like Germany. Not on the way but there. There would be nothing to oppose him. The WPA is a presidential machine. Their local bosses tell them how to vote if they want to keep their jobs. This runs down to local elections."

"The war situation is history repeating itself. If England and France get drawn in we are likely to get in too. I would sit tight no matter what happens."

The political situation here may reflect that of the country. The Republicans who have been at odds are getting together and the Democrats who have been together are splitting into factions, the older ones going off and holding meetings by themselves.

# OLD BOAT LANDING ON OHIO RIVER WITH 16 LOG CABIN REPLICAS SURROUNDED BY STOCKADE IS UNUSUAL SHRINE CALLED "LINCOLN PIONEER VILLAGE."

By BESS V. EHRMANN.

(Photos in Picture Section Today.)

THE world claims Abraham Lincoln's manhood, but to southern Indiana alone belongs his youth. His character was molded in her wilderness country, and his schooling (what little he had) was received in her great outdoors and log cabin schoolhouses. Today Lincoln is called one of the five greatest men since the beginning of time, a man who rose above the handicaps of poverty, pioneer hardships, little education and ungainly physique.

There have been many memorials built to honor his memory, both in the cities of the United States of America and in many foreign countries. These beautiful shrines of marble and stone bespeak his greatness. There are statues of him, buildings, parks, cities and streets that bear his name. Artists, sculptors, historians and writers are constantly giving to the world their ideas of the man who proclaimed "Malice toward none, with charity for all."

## Unusual Memorial.

Five years ago, in the quaint, old-fashioned town of Rockport, Spencer county, Indiana, on the Ohio river, a most unusual memorial was erected to honor the boyhood of one who had lived the 14 formative years of his youth from the age of 7 to 21 in this county. What is more important in the development of any man than the years when character is molded and one learns the art of living.

The boy Lincoln's home was a distance of 17 miles from Rockport, the county seat, and here he frequently came with his father and became acquainted with the leading men of the village. He borrowed books in Rockport from its best-known lawyer, John Pitcher. Then, in 1828, he left the old Ohio river boatlanding on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans.

## A Lincoln Shrine.

It was on this first trip to New Orleans that Lincoln first realized the evils of slavery, and many years later in a letter to his friend, Alexander H. Stephens of Springfield, Ill., was this statement: "When a boy, I went to New Orleans on a flatboat, and there I saw slavery and slave markets as I had never seen them in Kentucky, and I heard worse of the Red River plantations."

This old boat landing is today a Lincoln shrine, and people come from far and near to stand at the water's edge on the beautiful Ohio and visualize the tall, awkward boy who set out from this spot on his first great adventure into the big world. . . .

Not far from the schoolhouse, in the village, is a replica of the Old Pigeon Baptist Church which he helped his father to build. In this old log cabin church are two huge fireplaces, one at each side of the large room where the puncheon seats and queer high pulpit give a glimpse into the religious life of southern Indiana in 1819.

On entering the church, visitors feel in a religious mood after reading these words carved on a wooden plaque—"Enter friend! This is your church. In its pio-

neer setting, this Old Pigeon Baptist Church invites you to recapture the glorious spirit of pioneer spirituality."

## Replica of Home.

Now the steps of the boy turn toward the replica of his home, so let us follow and see that log cabin which housed the Lincoln family. It represents the third Indiana cabin built by Thomas Lincoln. In it we see the bed built of boughs which is fastened to the wall, also the trundle bed beneath. There are the heavy pegs driven into the left wall which form a type of ladder to ascend to the loft. There is a spinning wheel, a rude table made of boughs, quaint old handmade chairs, a wooden churn, old iron cooking utensils, and a quaint cupboard with some interesting old dishes and wooden sugar bucket.

We seem to see the boy Lincoln stretched out in front of the fireplace, reading some book which he had borrowed, while other members of this happy family are seated around the fireplace with its blazing log fire.

Sarah Bush Lincoln, the stepmother, sits to the right of the fire and is knitting a heavy woolen sock of mammoth size which the boy Abe will soon be wearing. Sarah, his sister, is seated back in the corner talking to Aaron Grigsby whom she is soon to wed. Elizabeth and Matilda, the step-sisters of Lincoln, are cracking nuts with a hammer as the nuts are placed on a heavy rock held between Elizabeth's knees. They giggle and cast knowing eyes at Sarah and her beau. Tom Lincoln is asleep in a chair tipped back against the left of the fireplace. Just now Dennis Hanks, Abe's cousin, and his stepbrother, John Johnson, enter, each with arms full of wood for the fire. It is a cold night out but warm and bright here in the Lincoln home.

## The Gentry Home.

Next we visit the James Gentry home which stood near the Lincoln home. It was called a mansion in its day. It was Gentry who employed Lincoln on his farm and who hired him to go with his son, Allen, on the Gentry flatboat to New Orleans. The furnishings in this Gentry mansion are a little finer than many other cabins in the village and on the white-washed walls hang pictures of James Gentry and ones of Stephen A. Douglas and Andrew Jackson which belonged to the Gentry family. The old bed, chairs, Seth Thomas clock and other relics also belonged in the Gentry fam-

## Visited by Thousands.

Thousands annually visit this unusual shrine and see the conditions which surrounded and helped develop our greatest American citizen.

On moonlight nights when a full moon casts its soft rays over the log houses and the winding pathways in the village, one seems to see a tall, barefoot boy walking along the trail, and there is a feeling that his spirit lives here in the environment of his youth.

Let us walk along the village trail with him. He stops now at the log cabin schoolhouse with its dirt floor, puncheon benches, the dunce stool in the corner, a huge fireplace and a large bundle of switches in the corner, because the master did not spare the rod in the teaching of his pupils in pioneer times. There are two small windows with their heavy wooden shutters, the hinges of which are wood and put together with wooden pegs, as are those of the door.

## Thoughts of Boyhood.

In a schoolroom such as this Abraham Lincoln learned to read, write and cipher. Here came the boys and girls, friends of his youth, and we feel that his spirit would pause at this place and that again he would sit on one of the old puncheon benches. Let us step over the worn door sill with him and think about those days in the life of this pioneer schoolboy of Indiana, and the lessons he learned long ago.

ily. There is one very priceless exhibit in this room, a rail from a fence which Lincoln had built and for which he split all the rails when employed by Gentry.

The trail from the Gentry home leads to the Josiah Crawford home. It was Josiah Crawford who employed both Lincoln and his sister, Sarah, and who lent to Lincoln Weems's "Life of Washington," which book was damaged in a storm and for which Lincoln paid Crawford in work. In this home is an old loom, quaint old bed and trundle bed, chairs, wooden cradle and other furniture known to the boy Lincoln. In front of the home is an old stone well with its huge wooden sweep where one may draw a cool drink and use a gourd dipper to drink from, as did the boy Lincoln.

#### The Grigsby Cabin.

Lincoln's only sister, Sarah, married Aaron Grigsby, and now the trail leads to their tiny cabin in home. It possesses a rail fence in front of the house and a flag stone walk. In front and to the right of the doorway is a magnificent beech tree which looks to have stood on this spot since the time of Columbus. The cabin has only a few pieces of rude furniture and some cooking utensils in front of the stone fireplace. To the left of the house outside hangs a great iron kettle and near it is an old ash hopper where the wood ashes were saved to make the soap used in pioneer times and which was made in the huge kettle.

Lincoln must have loved the little cabin home where his sister, Sarah, lived for so short a time. In 1828 she died and was buried in the Old Pigeon Creek burying ground not far from the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother, who had died in 1818, and was buried on a hilltop near the Lincoln cabin. In Indiana soil rest both mother and daughter.

We see the boy Lincoln stop at the Jones store in the village. He must want to visit again the store where he once clerked. Looking through the door we see the articles sold in stores of that day, the dishes, brooms, whisky,

gun powder, coffee, salt, sugar, calico and such.

#### Gained Knowledge Clerking.

It seems we see the boy Lincoln sitting by the fireplace reading a newspaper which the storekeeper, William Jones, allowed him to read. Here while a clerk he gained much knowledge of the affairs of the day.

We visit several other homes of Lincoln's neighbors in the village and then suddenly realize that we have lost the tall figure we were following. We look about us and finally see at the far end of the village the shadowy form of the boy. He stands in front of a tiny cabin which sits apart from the other cabins, and he seems to contemplate it with rather a surprised look on his face.

We move up near enough to read the placard placed by the side of the door, "Aunt Lepha Mackey Cabin." Who was she and why a cabin in this village? We read more, and the words tell us that following the freeing of slaves by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 that Lepha Mackey, who owned this ground and lived on it, had taken to her home the Negro children in Rockport and taught them to read and write.

#### No Colored Schools.

There were no schools for the Negro children then, and these

home-taught classes became the first Negro school in southern Indiana. Her life and works are thus honored in this Lincoln shrine which is built to honor the memory of the Emancipator's boyhood in Indiana.

Our last stop is at the log cabin law office of John Pitcher. Here are the old leather-bound law books of over 100 years ago —also an old desk where we see John Pitcher writing with a quill pen. In just such a place the boy Lincoln came to talk to the great lawyer and to borrow his books. Here his ambition to be a lawyer had its beginning. With reverent fingers we touch the old books and desk as we realize that just such objects as these meant much to that boy whose mind was reaching out for knowledge of that great world of which he knew so little.

Here in the shade of these great century-old tree people may sit and meditate on the life of one, who as a boy, wandered over the hills and valleys of southern Indiana. He was a student of the great outdoors and the forest primeval, so this village is a shrine to his memory.

When one enters it through the gate of the old log stockade he steps into another world, a world where peace and quiet and God seem to be shut in and where a world of strife is shut out.

# TRI-STATE TALES

*Evening Star*

## How an Oil Can Changed Some History

**A**T THE Rockport, Ind., Lincoln Pioneer Village Superintendent C. S. Snyder is cussing the guy with an oilcan.

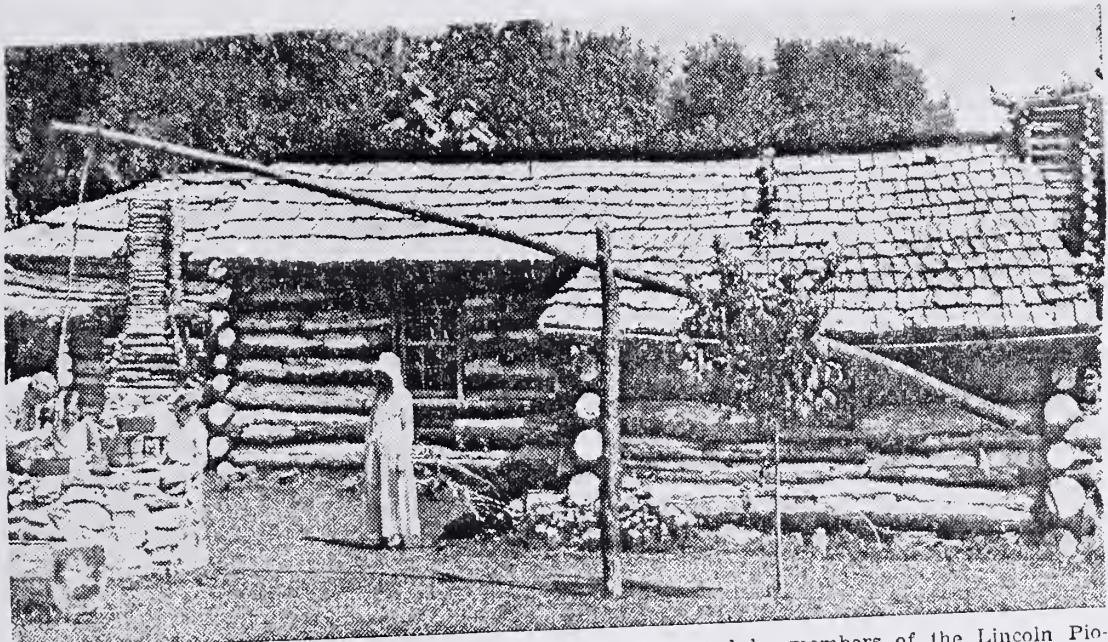
It seems that Mr. George Horing's crew, which constructed the rustic log cabin village, went to a lot of trouble to equip each log house with heavy wooden pegged doors. And each door was swung on a pair of wooden hinges, painstakingly whittled out.

"These hinges," said Mr. Snyder, "squeaked beautifully every time the doors were used. And seldom did visitors fail to notice the old fashioned hinges and exclaim over them.

"Now," said Mr. Snyder wrathfully, "someone put oil on the hinges and ruined the whole show. Visitors don't notice the hinges anymore.

"What," he asked hopefully, "can I do to make our doors squeak again?"

\* \* \*



A SCENE TYPICAL OF EARLY INDIANA DAYS re-enacted by members of the Lincoln Pioneer Village committee of the Spencer County Historical Society. Shown at the replica of an old wellsweep inside the Pioneer Village at Rockport are Mrs. H. Bennett (at well), Mrs. G. Williams and the Williams children. (John E. Kleinhenz Photo.)

200-1970-1 9/5/70

# SPENCER COUNTY, RICH IN LINCOLN LORE, ONE OF MOST SCENIC COUNTIES IN INDIANA

Rockport, Ind., Sept. 12.—Special—Many are the historical spots in Spencer county, and the scenic beauty with its high hills, rich farm land, the beautiful bluffs on the banks of the Ohio river, and native forest trees, lend an enchantment that adds to the unique history of this county.

The Lincoln shrines in Spencer county are nationally known. The Nancy Hanks Lincoln Park, located at Lincoln City was named for the mother of Abraham Lincoln, the martyred president who lived here with his parents, Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, from the age of seven to twenty-one, and his mother's grave is in the park, a short distance from the Lincoln log cabin.

A stone marker has been placed at the old lower landing in Rockport, where Lincoln at the age of 19 went flatboating from Rockport to New Orleans in the year 1828, with Allen Gentry, a neighbor of the Lincolns and here is where Lincoln saw the slaves sold on the block and said, "If I ever get a chance to hit that, I will hit it hard."

In the Rockport City Park, an outstanding and unusual Lincoln Shrine is located. It is the Lincoln Pioneer Village and was dedicated the 4th of July 1935. This is the realization of a twenty year dream of George Honig, well-known artist and sculptor.

It consists of sixteen buildings, built of logs of native trees replica of the Lincoln cabin and the neighbors, and the Jones' store where Lincoln worked as a clerk in the Old Pigeon Baptist church built in about the year 1822 and the school house. It is known that young Abe helped his father on the carpenter work of the pulpit and window casings. The Lincoln family lived here in Spencer county, from 1816 to 1830.

Since the dedication of the village there has been approximately 40,000 to 50,000 visitors from every state in the Union, from Japan, Mexico, England, Canada, Germany, Sweden and France. History groups from universities, high schools and Lincoln clubs have attended in groups from 50 to 100.

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, well-known Lincoln historian, pageant writer and author is chairman of the Village committee.

Another distinction in Spencer county is the little postoffice of Santa Claus the only postoffice in the world by that name. Letters, packages and Christmas greetings are sent to this office from every nation in the world, and every state in the union to be remailed bearing the official Santa Claus stamp.

The St Meinrad Abbey founded in the year 1853, is one of the largest Abbey buildings. The dormitories are modern and from 400

to 600 students are enrolled each year.

J. Ford Wilkinson, past president of the Northern Nut Growers Association, is the proprietor of the Indiana Nut Nursery, the only one in the state of Indiana. It is located in Luce township.

Of the 40,000 acres of tillable land, about 20,000 are leased for gas and oil. Many paying gas wells are located in Spencer county and there are a number of coal mines furnishing much of the fuel used in the county.

Fruit orchards are numerous strawberry growers and peonia growers have a well established business.

The churches and schools are well attended in every locality. Trifit and the community spirit prevails throughout the county.

Mrs. Mina Cook of Rockport has in her possession a vast amount of Lincoln data, some of which has never been published and some of which was published in the Rockport Sentinel in the year 1883 that is not generally known. All of the data her father, the late J. D. Armstrong, gathered in the year 1858 at Gentryville, Spencer county, at the time of the Lincoln-Douglas debate and when the neighbors of the Lincoln's were living.

She also has some very valuable heirlooms connected with the Lincoln family while they lived in Spencer county.

On a visit to her room, one is impressed with the quaint furniture and old books more than 150 years old and her collection of glass and china razors, pocket knives and oh yes, fans, some of carved rose wood, ebony hand-painted, a pink satin splangled fan of enormous size, hand carved ivory knitting needle holder, rose wood, pearl inlaid lady's calling card case, etc.

Some of the books that she values the most are "The Confession of Faith," Of Public Authority in the Church of Scotland with Acts of Assembly of Parliament, relative of the same.

Edinburgh printed by the assigns of Alexander Kincaid, His Majesty's Printer, MD CCL XXXIII (1788).

An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, for the calling of an Assembly of learned and Godly Divines, and others to be consulted with by the Parliament and liturgy of the Church of England; and for vindicating and clearing of the Doctrine of the said Church from false suspicion and interpretations. June 12, 1643.

Memories of Andrew Sherburne, a prisoner of the Navy of the Revolution, written by himself, published 1831.

"The Little Girls Own Book" by Mrs. Child, published in 1849, author of "The Frugal Housewife," "Mother's Book," etc.

"I have not sweetmeats, cakes or toys,

As gifts for little girls or boys; But look in me, and you shall find Both food and playthings for the mind."

Her grandmother's Cook Book entitled "The Young Housekeeper" Friend or Guide to Domestic Economy and Comfort" by Mrs. Cornelius. This is the tenth thousand, published in the year 1851 and copy-righter in 1845.

One of the unusual recipes is for "Snow Fritters" and is as follows:

Sift together salt, milk and flour to make rather a thick batter. Add new fallen snow in the proportion of a tea cupful to a pint of milk. Have the fat ready hot, at the time you stir in the snow, and drop the batter into it with a spoon. These pancakes are much preferred by some to those made with eggs bat them with sugar and lemon juice or with sugar and wine.

# TRI-STATE TALES

## Princeton Man Is Champion When It Comes To Making Auto Trailers

WHILE MRS. FIELDS claims that her husband is "just too particular" V. V. himself just shrugs off the accusation and goes right on being just as finicky as he pleases in his handicraft.

V. V. Fields of Princeton, Ind., has the reputation in his territory of turning out the best brand of auto trailers. They're not for sale but for his own use.

His four-wheeled trailer surprised everyone with its non-swaying, road-stability characteristics.

Now he's turned out a two-wheeled job which looks and behaves like the sort of trailers one sees in catalogs but never can buy.

### Jug Didn't Work

MAYBE he doesn't have the right knack of doing it, but Ed Hylton of Dodd, Ind., has lost his faith in the old story that bees can be enticed into a jug partially filled with water.

Mr. Hylton in plowing up a field bumped into an offending bumble-bee nest.

So Hylton tried the jug stunt.

The bees were indignant that he even entertained the suspicion of an idea they could be lured into a jug. A couple of them attached themselves to various portions of his anatomy and chased him all over the freshly plowed field.

Hylton took his jug back home.

### Hard Job To Fill

MAYBE THIS isn't the place for editorializing but one could hardly pass up this story.

The committee in charge of the Rockport, Ind., Lincoln Pioneer Village is going to wait until next spring to choose a successor to Claude S. Snyder, park supervisor.

To make it simpler—committee members feel it will be a long time before they find anyone who can actually fill Mr. Snyder's place at the stockaded village.

For Claude Snyder, who died two weeks ago, fitted into the log cabin scene as smoothly as if he had been born there. It was a bit of perfect casting when Mr. Snyder took over supervision of the pioneer village shortly after its completon.

He was born in an age when the things on display at the village were not merely relics, but served

a definite purpose in household duties. He had pioneer stories galore handed down to him through his family. He was a Lincoln student.

Mr. Snyder enjoyed telling those stories of his. But not one visitor of the thousands to the small park could charge that he was boring. With all his fund of pioneer information he had a healthy interest toward the present tense plus a sense of humor.

Small wonder then the Rockport Lincoln Village committee is delaying the difficult task of filling his shoes.

### That Dam Squeak

HAVE YOU ever been worried —or maybe annoyed is a better term—by the squeak of a rusty door hinge?

Yes? Of course, it was easy enough to fix once you got round to digging up the oilcan.

Having been irritated by a common, ordinary door squeak, consider then how the workmen at Government Dam 47 on the Ohio River feel.

These gentlemen have reported a "squeak" in the hinge of one of the 145 ton lock chamber gates. That's really something.

By rights it isn't actually a "squeak"—which is something akin to the noise made by a troublesome mouse. Rather it sounds like a bass note of a huge pipe organ.

To put it mildly the squeak has worried the workmen, no end. Over the period of a week or so they have taken turns in assaulting the lone hinge with an oilcan.

So far no one has seemed to do any good. There's only one huge hinge on each of the gates—one hinge plus a bottom ball and socket joint. There are big bearings above and below the squeaky hinge and no one can seem to reach the squeaky parts with a squirt of oil.

## ROCKPORT

—o—

Rockport, on your rocky heights  
You raise your lofty head  
And you see for miles the moving lights  
On the river's bosom spread  
From moving craft of powerful tow  
That onward toward the ocean go,  
You look haughty, dignified,  
Impregnable from the water side;  
Uninviting, cold, secluded, bold,  
Anchored to your rocks; time old.  
But there is a soft place in your isolation  
That is mapped as sentimental invitation.  
A winding path with beauty spread  
Leads to the top where your lofty head  
Looks up to glorious azure skies  
And glimpses of river paradise.  
Where nestling among the native trees  
Domestic charms that thrill and please  
Unfold in rapture, homes sacred place  
The great salvation of the human race.  
One of civilization's greatest tools  
Your well appointed public schools;  
Another marked by upward pointing spires,  
From churches, that righteousness inspires,  
All spread out in panoramic glory  
Heighten the splendor of your civic story.  
Rockport, you're not haughty, just proud,  
That kindly Fate has yet allowed  
You to lead your urban way  
And close to the heart of nature stay.  
You are thankful that our lungs don't choke  
With industry's consuming smoke.  
You are proud of your broad and fertile fields,  
Proud of your annual fruitful yields  
You are proud of your heaps of golden grain;  
You are proud that historic feet  
Have walked along your city street;  
You are proud that your girls and boys  
Are an important part of all the noise  
That quakes the earth in foreign lands'  
Proud of their loyal hearts and willing hands;  
Proud that here they learned to know  
The strength and warmth of homeside glow.  
Hearts that are warmed by fires of home  
Hold courage, strength and power,  
And wherever a home-warmed heart shall roam  
Will human greatness flower.  
What tho' you build no tools or toys  
It's glory enough to build girls and boys.  
Character and mental health  
Are greater than power, greater than wealth.  
So you just stick to your rocky seat  
Let the beautiful Ohio lave your feet.  
Hold your beautiful head up high  
And mirror the visions you see in the sky.  
Rockport, you are home, sweet home to me  
There is no place on earth I'd rather be.

—SAM E. LOGSDON, December 14, 1943.

ROCKPORT, INDIANA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1955

# Historical Society Hopes To Stress Lincoln's Boyhood; Books Wanted

An enthusiastic, although small group of the Spencer County Historical Society met at the library on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m.

The discussions were informal but centered around the following points:

1. There is a real need of an aggressive historical society in Spencer county. Over the country, there is abysmal ignorance of Lincoln's life here. So much attention has been given to Lincoln as a rail splitter, and to his poverty, that few people realize how mentally and spiritually mature he was when he left here, and the forces here that contributed to that development.

Several articles in national

magazines have omitted entirely his life in Indiana. Recently Mrs. Ehrman had requests from New York and Iowa for copies of her book, "Missing Chapters in the Life of Lincoln," by persons who said they had not known that Lincoln ever lived in Indiana.

2. Mr. Ora Brown, of Dale, a Lincoln student and collector, asked the endorsement of the Society for a proposal to place the original stone from the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln (which was superceded by the later monument and has been laying in an isolated spot, ignored) at a place near the main entrance for the benefit of many who cannot walk to the grave itself. This proposal,

subject to approval of the state director, was endorsed by the group. Mr. Brown had agreed to attend to the work.

3. There is need of a large collection of carefully selected books and material on Lincoln in our Carnegie Public Library. Visitors from other towns and Lincoln students have expressed amazement that we have so little.

Accurate books are needed to refute the inaccurate, trivial and even vicious material that some authors have cashed in on. A case in point is the effort now being made to have a motion picture made of a recent novel that masquerades as fact — fictitious material very detrimental to the memory of Lincoln. Such a picture would be a real calamity.

4. An unnamed man has offered to buy for our library a full set of the writings of Carl Sandburg (retailing at about \$150) if 20 people in Rockport would each donate a book on Lincoln approved by a committee headed by Mrs. Bess V. Ehrman and Dr. Louis A. Warren, eminent Lincoln scholar, of the Lincoln National Foundation.

What 20 people will each donate a book?

## LIBRARY BOARD TO ACCEPT LINCOLN BOOKS

The Rockport Library Board, at its monthly meeting in the library building Tuesday evening, voted to accept the man's proposition to donate an unabridged set of the *Life of Abraham Lincoln* by Carl Sandburg, on conditions set out in the proposition reported in last week's issue of the county papers, and decided to act as sponsor of the project.

It further decided, with the consent of the author of the article in point 4 the words "in Rockport" should be deleted. The donations are open to all regardless of location.

It is a worthwhile project and should be encouraged by all who are interested in the welfare of our library, city and county. It will fill a distressing vacancy in our library.

The board appointed Mrs. Bess Ehrman chairman of the committee to screen the books and she is directed to appoint two other members to serve with her. Dr. Lewis A. Warren, of Ft. Wayne, an eminent authority on the life of Abraham Lincoln, was appointed as an advisory member of the committee.

Chicago Tribune  
July 4, 1958

## Replica of Abe's Flatboat Ready

### Will Re-enact Trip to New Orleans

Rockport, Ind., July 3 (P)—A replica of Abraham Lincoln's 1828 flatboat, loaded with salt pork, whisky, wheat and other staples of the era, will start for New Orleans Friday.

The launching will be from the same spot where the 19 year old Lincoln and a friend started their long journey 130 years ago to sell their produce and the raft itself as lumber in the south.

The Rockport Junior Chamber of Commerce conceived the voyage as a stunt to help publicize the Lincoln sesquicentennial celebration next year.

#### Use 43 Foot Logs

The little Ohio river port's 18 Jaycees got more excited about the project as it progressed and promoted it into a big event at seven scheduled

stops on the Ohio and 12 on the Mississippi.

Except for some precautionary steel barrels under the flatboat and a couple of 35-horsepower outboard motors, the Jaycees have labored for five months to make the flatboat as authentic as possible.

Finding enough 43-foot logs in the second-growth woods of southern Indiana was a major operation. The logs were assembled into a craft 16 feet wide, with a cabin 9 by 18 feet. The 43-by-16 dimensions are believed about the same as those of Lincoln's raft.

Lincoln made the trip as an employe of the Gentry family —\$8 a month for the three months. His companion was the son of a Pigeon creek farmer, James Gentry, who trusted the boys to take a load of produce to New Orleans and swap it for cotton, tobacco and flour.

#### Governors May Ride

The future President and

Allen Gentry were the only occupants of the original flatboat. The new one will be more heavily populated, with crews changing at practically every stop. Only Frank Swallow Jr., the Rockport Jaycee president, and Bob Richards, a Jaycee member, plan to ride all the way.

The sponsors hope as many as six governors will ride varying distances.

Rockport prepared for a possible crowd of 25,000 for the Fourth of July sendoff. Memphis may have the biggest gathering to greet the raft, July 12, when a replica of a Confederate gunboat will "capture" the craft and take the prisoners into the cotton capital for a banquet. This, of course, didn't happen to Lincoln.

The schedule calls for 60 miles a day, with the help of the motors. Engine power is essential because of locks that have been built since Lincoln's youth.

### *Lincoln Observance*

OWENSBORO—The Pride of Indiana, a flatboat styled like one used by Abraham Lincoln, passed here yesterday on its voyage to New Orleans. Some 2,500 persons were on the river front to see the boat, which is making the trip in observance of Lincoln's 150th birthday—to be celebrated next year.

The voyage started Thursday at Rockport, Ind. Nineteen stops are planned, including one today at Evansville, Ind. The boat is expected to reach New Orleans July 25.

Several public officials, including Senator Thruston Morton (R., Ky.), were passengers from Rockport to Owensboro.

VISIT THE  
**LINCOLN PIONEER VILLAGE**  
IN CITY PARK  
ROCKPORT, INDIANA



Designed by George Honig, artist and sculptor, under direction of the Spencer County Historical Society and Rockport City Park Board, the Lincoln Pioneer Village was constructed during the period from 1935 to 1937.

This memorial to Abraham Lincoln's 14 formative years (1816 - 1830) spent in Spencer County consists primarily of structures and other artifacts which represent the life and times of Lincoln, his pioneer neighbors and friends.

Rockport, largest city and county seat of Spencer County since 1818, is bounded on the east by the Ohio River. The city is situated approximately 25 miles east of Evansville, Indiana, and 11 miles north of Owensboro, Kentucky, at the junction of Indiana State Highways 45 and 66 (The Lincoln Heritage Trail).

The Village which is adjacent to the Rockport City Park takes unique advantage of some of the most beautiful wooded area in this region.

Placards on all buildings offer historical notes. A summary of the structures is as follows:

1 and 2. Administration building and souvenir room. Many articles, not all of the Lincoln period, are displayed here.

3. John Pitcher's law office. Pitcher was the first resident lawyer in Spencer County and became Rockport's first City Attorney in 1818. He became interested in young Abe Lincoln, and lent him books to read. The Lincoln home was 17 miles north of Rockport and Abe often walked that distance to borrow or return a book. In this office notice the desk, law books, and bellows for fanning the fire.



Cabin No. 9 Daniel Grass Home

4. Aaron and Sarah Grigsby home. To this home as a bride came Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, Abe Lincoln's only sister. The bed in this cabin is made from boughs. The figure in this structure represents Sarah Lincoln. (Sponsored by Silverdale Home Economics Club.)

5. Jones store. "The History of Warrick, Spencer, and Perry Counties" published in 1885 records that this store, one of two operated by William Jones, was located at Jonesboro (now called Gentryville). For a time, Lincoln was a clerk in this store at a wage of 25¢ per day. Among the articles for sale, notice especially the courting tubes which were used by boys and girls who had to do their courting in the one room cabin in the presence of the old folks. Seated on opposite sides of the fireplace, they could whisper to each other through a tube and do their courting with some privacy. (Sponsored by Rockport Women's Club.)

6. Gentry mansion. James Gentry, a neighbor of the Lincolns, was a rich land owner who employed Abe on his farm. In 1828, James Gentry hired Lincoln to go with his son, Allen, on a flatboat to New Orleans. The landing from which young Lincoln and Gentry departed Rockport, is preserved as a memorial at the foot of Clark Street. This log house is furnished with articles from the Gentry family, many of which are over 150 years old. (Sponsored by the Gentry family.)

7. Old Pigeon Baptist Church. This is a replica of the structure which Thomas Lincoln and his son Abraham helped build. The Lincoln family attended Old Pigeon while living in Spencer County. All members of the family, except Abe, belonged to this church. The stairway in this building leads to a loft. The loft was used as sleeping quarters by the men who brought their families from such distant points that they were compelled to stay overnight. The women and children stayed among the neighbors. An old fashioned flower garden lies near the church.

8. Azel Dorsey home. Dorsey was one of Abe's school teachers. The first court of law in Spencer County was held in his home. The floor is made of puncheons, heavy pieces of roughly dressed timber, hewed out with a broad ax, and put down with pegs. The desk and chairs are from

the first Spencer County Court House. (Sponsored by Rockport Garden Club.)

9. Daniel Grass home. Judge Daniel Grass was the second man to take a land grant in Spencer County, and was the first to own land in the present city of Rockport. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Indiana, held in 1818. This double cabin home exhibits a breezeway or "dog trot" as it was called in the early days. Among the furnishings of this home is a genuine trundle bed. (Sponsored by descendants of Grass family.)

10. Pioneer schoolhouse. In a building quite similar to this, with dirt floor and puncheon benches, young Lincoln attended school in Spencer County. A bucket and gourd dipper are located by a window.

11. Aunt Lepha McKay (or Mackey) home. Aunt Lepha was a beloved Rockport lady who took colored children into her home and taught them to read and write long before there were schools for colored people. She once owned the land on which the Lincoln Pioneer Village is located.

12. Museum of early transportation. This structure was erected by the production crew of the movie "The Kentuckian" and depicts an early tobacco warehouse. Several buggies, a hearse, and other horsedrawn vehicles may be seen here.

13. Replica of the Lincoln homestead in Spencer County. A stairway of pegs driven into the wall leads to a loft. At night Lincoln climbed to his bed in a loft such as this. Articles of interest are a spinning wheel, a bed of boughs, a roughly-made table, and a cupboard formerly owned by neighbors of the Lincolns. A lean-to joins the back of the cabin. (Sponsored by Rockport Home Ec Club.)

14. Replica of Brown's Inn. In this building, Rockport's first tavern, many distinguished guests were entertained during the early 1800's. (Sponsored by Business and Professional Women's Club.)



Replica of Lincoln Homestead

15. Grandview Block House. This fortified log house is located at the palisade on the north side of the Village and represents a building which was located near Grandview, Indiana.

16. Museum. This large, fireproof building was built in 1950 by the Rockport Park Improvement Association, Incorporated. This association which now manages the operation of the Village has displayed here several valuable exhibits of artifacts from different periods of Indiana history.

17. Market and Barter House. Pioneers brought furs, farm produce, and homemade goods to such a place to barter for things they needed. A display of wooden shoes and the tools used to make them brings to mind the German settlers of pioneer Spencer County, many of whom wore wooden shoes.

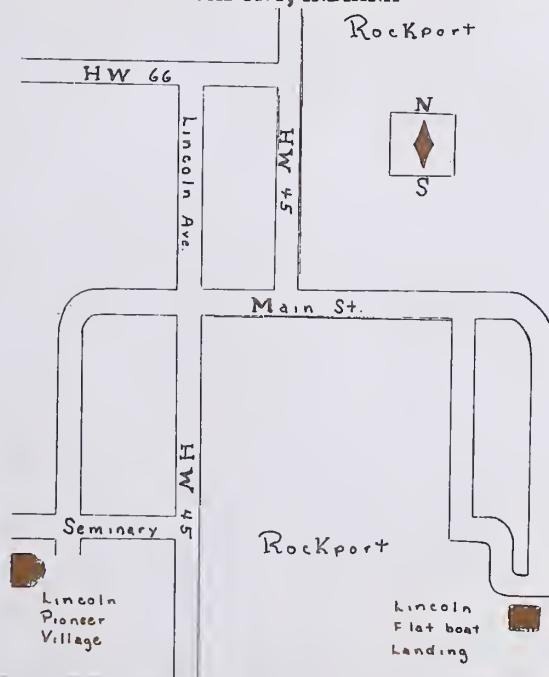
18. Josiah Crawford home. Occasionally Abe and his sister Sarah both worked for the Crawfords who were their neighbors. Abe read books belonging to them, one of which was "Life of Washington". (Sponsored by Rockport American Legion Auxiliary.)

19. The wishing well, covered wagon, oxcart, sweep and windlass wells, mill burrs, shaving horse, ash hopper, soap kettles, hitch racks, grind stones, wood mould board plow, and other pioneer items are located throughout the Village grounds.

The Rockport City Park affords excellent free facilities for picnicking: good water, tables and benches, and open air furnaces. Shelter house facilities may be obtained for a nominal fee by contacting the park custodian for reservations.

The admission charge for a leisurely visit to Lincoln Pioneer Village is 25¢ for children and 50¢ for adults. Open daily from 8 AM to 5 PM. Bring your friends and come again.

ROCKPORT PARK IMPROVEMENT ASS'N INC.  
ROCKPORT, INDIANA



cc: M. NEELY

# Link to Lincoln

## History buffs want to restore village

From the Associated Press

ROCKPORT, Ind. — A couple of newcomers are trying to wipe the cobwebs off an old tourist attraction and turn it into a mecca for history buffs.

Glenn and Mary Douglas, who moved to Rockport two years ago from West Virginia, hope to restore Lincoln Pioneer Village, 19 old cabins that commemorate Abraham Lincoln's ties with southern Indiana.

Eventually, they hope to turn the log buildings adjacent to Rockport City Park into a working village with people in period costumes demonstrating 19th-century crafts full time.

The Douglasses said they were put in charge of a restoration committee in May after they offered to help do the work.

He is production superintendent of the operations department of the Indiana and Michigan Electric Co.'s Rockport Generating Station. Mary Douglas is a homemaker.

Glenn Douglas is most interested in the structures and how best to improve them, while his wife is more concerned with fur-



Abraham Lincoln

nishings and record-keeping.

"I majored in history in college," Mary Douglas said. "This is my piece of cake."

Lincoln never laid eyes on any of the cabins in the village. Most of the structures were built by the federal Works Progress Administration in 1935-36. They are replicas of Spencer County buildings Lincoln was associated with during a youth spent at Gentryville, 20 miles from here, from 1816 to 1830.

One large cabin, a replica of an early tobacco barn, was built for

the filming of the Burt Lancaster movie "The Kentuckian" in the 1950s, Douglas said.

The village also has a large, one-room museum containing everything from top hats to old bicycles, funeral wreathes to dinosaur bones, as well as a dress that is supposed to have belonged to Lincoln's sister (who married into a local family) and a hutch his father reportedly made for a neighbor.

Despite such drawing cards, a lot of work will have to be done before tourists start flocking to the village, the Douglasses said.

Several of the structures have sagging floors or leaky roofs. Some are too unsafe to enter.

Volunteers working on the project need advice. "We want to preserve the stuff, but we don't want to damage it," Mary Douglas cautioned. "The price of the restoration project will be astronomical."

Glenn Douglas said \$150,000 "would only whet the appetite."

But the Rockport City Council has no money budgeted for the work, officials said, so the town is relying on donations, bake sales, free labor and, in some cases, local families who have agreed to fix up the replicas of their ancestors' homes.

## Lincoln's part of Rockport party

By Rich Davis

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

ROCKPORT, Ind. — It's been 72 years since sculptor George H. Honig's dream of a Lincoln pioneer village became a reality at the west end of Main Street here — a tourist attraction that fell into neglect before recent revitalization efforts by volunteers brought it back.

On Saturday, starting at 10 a.m., this Spencer County town of 2,100 will throw a Rocktoberfest featuring car, bike and art shows, food booths, carriage rides and, at 4:30 p.m., a bierstube, bands and street dancing.

Coinciding with this will be Pioneer Days, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Lincoln Pioneer Village and Museum in the city park. The lineup includes "Indian heritage" stories, old-time tractors, spinning and other demonstrations, food and music.

At the east end of Main Street you can walk down the hill and under a bluff to a landing where Lincoln, as a young man, embarked on a flatboat trip to New Orleans.

Diane Unfried, who will be playing in the Meece Family Band outside the village and belongs to Friends of the Lincoln Pioneer Village, is one of the volunteers.

She says most of the dozen or so village buildings are open to the public (donations accepted). They're replicas of log cabin homes, a school house, church, tavern/inn, general store and attorney's office that reflect the era when Lincoln lived in Spencer County from 1816 to 1830.

There's also a museum built in 1950 and a "transportation building," the latter part of the set for "The Kentuckian" starring Burt Lancaster and Walter Matthau when it was filmed here in 1955.

Honig, whose bronze statues and plaques can be found across the Tri-State, including the Evansville Coliseum, Garvin Park and courthouses in Boonville, Ind., and Henderson, Ky., was born in Rockport in 1874.

According to Evansville historian Bill Bartelt, Honig often told a story about his days studying under Harmon McNeil, a New York sculptor. McNeil was working on a Lincoln statue and Honig commented to a colleague that Lincoln once lived near Honig's hometown in Indiana.

"Nonsense," said the glib New Yorker, noting Lincoln and his family might



have passed through Indiana on their way to Illinois, but they wouldn't have been there more than a few days.

Honig didn't forget the historical snub and in 1935 saw a lifetime dream come true when construction began on the village. Honig made the blueprints for the buildings based on careful research and supervised the construction, completed in 1937. More than 3,000 logs were donated and two log cabins, then 50 years old, were moved to the site.



Scripps Newspaper Group

— Online

© 2007 The E.W. Scripps  
Co.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [User  
Agreement](#)



---

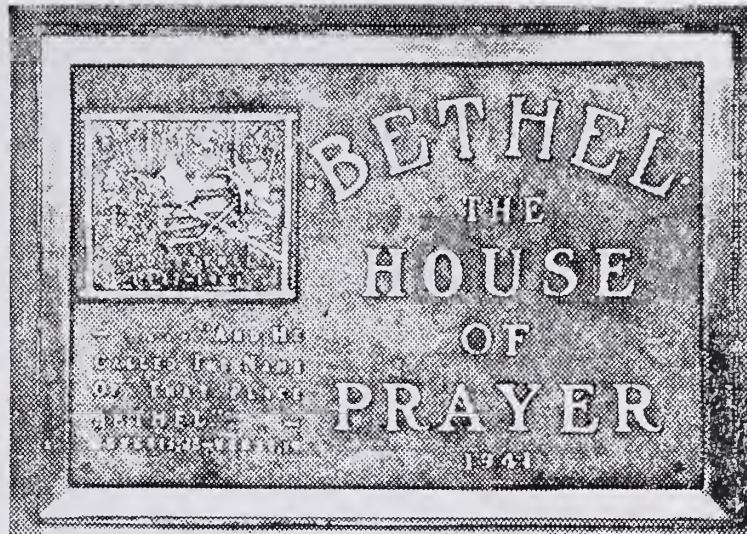
Comparison shop at [Shopzilla](#) and [BizRate](#) | [uSwitch.com](#) compares [gas & electricity](#), [home phone](#), [mobile phones](#), [broadband](#), [credit cards](#), [loans](#) and [car insurance](#)

His outstanding work in Kentucky is that of the tablets designed and executed by him to commemorate the trail blazed by those Kentucky pioneers who were known as the Transylvania Company. You'll find them at the Henderson Court House.

You can't speak of George Honig without mentioning the Lincoln Pioneer Village here at Rockport. But Honig doesn't call what he did in research, in rousing public support for this great project, in designing the village and supervising carpenters and craftsmen, work.

\* \* \*

"Lincolnia has always been my hobby," he says. "For 26 years I've been gathering facts and anecdotes about Lincoln's



This bronze tablet, executed by Honig, was unveiled at Camp Reveal this May.

life in this part of Indiana. Now I've begun in my spare time to assemble it into a book with water-color illustrations. I don't claim to be a writer—my field is art and sculpture—but the material is all here and it ought to be put down on paper."

You'd be amazed if you could see Honig "putting it on paper." He works at a typewriter with a tremendous fund of energy and the most unique system in the world.

His right forefinger does all the work, even to tapping the space bar. A slow method you might think, but that forefinger flashes over the keyboard with such lightning rapidity that the man behind it finds it necessary to anchor himself to something while writing.

He hangs on to some good solid object—such as a radiator pipe—with his left hand while his right one does the work.

## Spencer County, Ind.

By WILLIAM GRANT  
Sunday Courier and Press  
Staff Writer

ROCKPORT, Ind., July 31—This town, situated high on majestic cliffs overlooking the Ohio River is a living memorial to Abraham Lincoln.

Present day Rockport is a thriving city of 4000 persons, the county seat of agricultural-rich Spencer County. It has a pottery, a button factory that has its materials shipped from as far away as Tahiti.

But strongly affecting the town is its historical background made outstanding by the youthful Lincoln.

Spencer County is so linked to the Great Emancipator that it is often called "Lincoln County."

This is probably due to the influence of Rockport's historical background, and because those born here have been reared in the city where Americanism was once preached by the Great Emancipator.

The Lincoln family came to what is now Spencer County in 1816, the same year Indiana became a state.

Here for 14 years Young Abe did what he could toward educating himself by reading law books borrowed from Judge John Pitcher's law office.

In 1828, he made his first flat boat trip to New Orleans from Rockport as an oarsman on Allen Gentry's flatboat.

Today a granite marker stands near the flat boat landing and tells of Lincoln's life.

Of this marker, Dr. Louis A. Warren of the Lincoln Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind., once said: "This will someday be one of the greatest of Lincoln shrines, from where he left on his first flat boat trip to Louisiana, where he learned the evils of slavery."

On Rockport's Main street, stands an old inn where Lincoln was a guest in 1844 when he returned from Illinois as a Clay elector to visit former home and friends, in the county.

### Historical Point

West of the town is the Lincoln Pioneer Village, where the cabins Lincoln once knew have been authentically reconstructed and furnished through the efforts of George H. Hong, native born artist and sculptor.

Less than a half hour from Rockport by auto is the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park, where Lincoln's mother is buried. Lincoln's only sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby is buried at the Old Pigeon Baptist church, located one-half mile south of the original Lincoln log cabin.

On the Ohio River at Anderson Creek is a state park, which at one time was the Anderson Creek Ferry, where Abe Lincoln was employed.

Other well known tourists attractions in Spencer county include St. Meinrad Abbey and Monastery, the town of Santa Claus and Santa Claus Camp meeting ground.

Spencer was formed from parts of Warrick and Perry and became a county in January, 1816. It was named after Captain Spears Spencer, who was killed in the battle of Tippecanoe.

Rockport was chosen as county seat in 1818. The site has been called "Hanging Rock," by such Indians tribes as the Shawnee, Delaware and the Wyandottes.

Walter Taylor and Daniel Crass were the first land owners in Spencer county. Grass' land was on the present site of Rockport.

He changed the name from "Hanging Rock" to Mt. Duval, in honor of Col. William Duval, a Kentucky friend. The name was later changed to Rockport by the town's commissioners.

### Five Court Houses

Rockport has had five seats of justice. The first log cabin court house was built in 1818; the second, a brick building was erected in 1822; the third in 1838; the fourth in 1865. The present brick building was erected in 1921.

One of the most important offices in the court house here is the headquarters of Lewis E. Cooper, who as Spencer county agricultural agent holds an important

position in this livestock and grain producing district.

According to Mr. Cooper, 2,044 farm workers are employed on the county's 1,734 farms.

Chief crop is corn of which an average of 50,000 acres are produced annually. The county also produces about 25,000 acres of wheat, and 30,000 acres of soybeans each year.

The amount of soybeans produced, Mr. Cooper said, varies with the prices and usage.

Spencer county produced live stock is exported to Evansville. Last year 7,000 head of beef cattle were shipped to the Evansville market.

During the first half of 1948, a total of 1,251 veal calves, and 22,040 hogs were shipped to Evansville from Spencer county.

### Farm Groups

The county extension committee headed by Cancil Waters plans the county agent's farm program which this year includes farm management, terracing and pasture renovation.

Other farm group organizations include: the girls and boys 4-H clubs, which consist of about 810 members. The Artificial Breeders organization, headed by Sam Ferguson. This group was formed to improve the dairy herds. There are a total of 900 dairy farms in Spencer county.

The Rural-Urban organization, whose function is to create good will between farmers and city residents.

Three departments of on-the-farm veterans program are headed by Rodner Hayes, James Hardisty and William Richardson.

Five active farmers institutes, headed by Oscar Boultinghouse, county farm institute chairman. These institutes are the oldest means of extension work known.

The county farm bureau, which has 800 in membership is headed by Francis Lueken.

And the soil conservation district group governed by five Spencer county men. They are: Francis Lueken, Emil Brickman, Cancil Waters, Bruno Held and Fred Ahshier. Stanley Bednarczyk is work unit leader.

Rockport's mayor is George T. Gibbs, formerly of Evansville, who for 35 years was employed with the Indiana Bell Telephone company. He is now retired.

Police chief is Roy Held, assistant chief in Lester Tennyson.

Louis Skelton head the Rockport fire department, which consists of 15 volunteers, and two trucks.

### Industrial Plants

Rockport's two chief industrial plants are the Hampshire Pearl Button plant, a branch of an Amsterdam, N. Y. corporation, and the Rockport Pottery company, managed by Eldon Jacobs and employs about 75 men.

The button plant is managed by Earl Hobbs, and employs about 35 men and produces about one ton of buttons per week.

Button making is a slow process, according to Mr. Hobbs. "The same machines used 35 years ago are still being used in the industry today," he says, "and there have never been a machine designed that would do the work faster or better."

The buttons are cut from ocean shells shipped from the Philippines and Tahiti, and from shells taken from the Ohio river.

The discarded shell is used to make fertilizer and chicken grit. Rockport's privately owned water works company is managed by W. H. Baker. It supplies power to Bristol, Grandview, Chrisney and Newtonville.

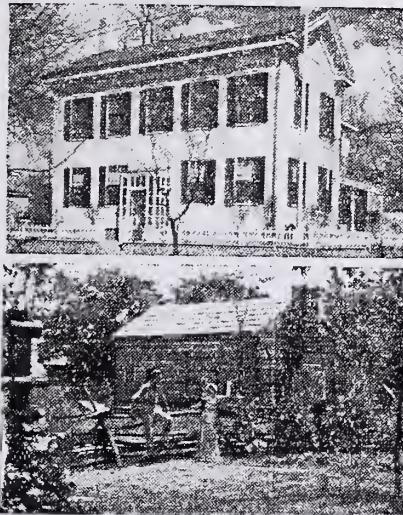
Most active civic organization here is the Kiwanis club, which also serves as a chamber of commerce. Club president is Lewis Webb. A recent project has been the lighting of American Legion baseball field here.

## USANDS OF LINCOLN SHRINE VISITORS

10 years ago today—and died 10 years ago—but shrines to his memory attract Americans annually. Custodians at his shrines multiplied several times since



too, is the community of Gentryville, associated with Lincoln's boyhood days. State officials estimate that 84,000 visited the memorial this last year while 21,000 crossed the road to the recreational part of the park.

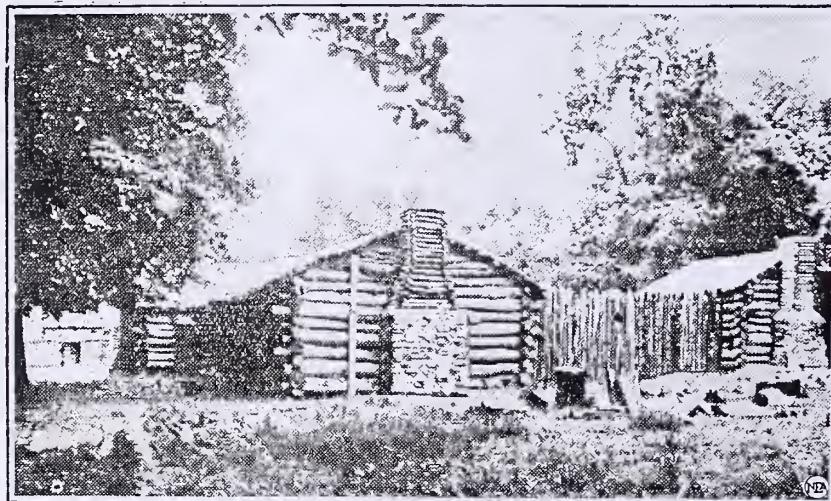


Lincoln's home at Springfield, Ill., is shown at the top. He lived here before his election as President. His four sons were born here. Attendance last year was 117,319. Rutledge Tavern, shown below, is a feature of the recently restored village of New Salem, Ill., where



Lincoln lived six years. In 1933, first year of the village, 25,000 persons visited it. Last year 250,000. Lincoln's tomb is at Springfield. This bust of Lincoln by Gutzon Borglum stands at the south entrance. Before 1901 annual attendance seldom exceeded 30,000. Last year 128,000 visited the tomb.

## TRI-STATE GETS LARGE SHARE OF THO



Newest of the national memorials to Abraham Lincoln is the Lincoln Pioneer Village at Rockport, Ind., near the place where the Emancipator lived from his seventh to his twenty-first year. The community as it was in the days of Lincoln's

boyhood has been faithfully reproduced with cabin, stockade, furniture. In the past three years 50,000 persons have visited the stockaded village located in the city park. Every state in the union plus a number of foreign countries have been represented in visitors.

Abraham Lincoln was born 130 years ago. The shrines still are visited by thousands of A memorials say annual attendance the shrines were opened.



At Lincoln City, Ind., is Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Park. Here can be found the exact site of the cabin Thomas Lincoln built when he came to Indiana from Kentucky and the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Here,



## A HOOSIER LISTENING POST

BY KATE MILNER RABB

A most interesting sketch of steam-boating on the Ohio has been written by Archibald Shaw of Lawrenceburg, Ind., president of the Dearborn County Historical Society, who has written many historical sketches of the Ohio river country for the Lawrenceburg Press, which devotes much space to local history. The steamboat age began about 1811, says Mr. Shaw, "when the first boat run by steam power, the New Orleans, passed down the Ohio river from Pittsburgh, and after many dangers from the river and the awful earthquake at Madrid, Mo., that year, reached its destination at the Crescent City. It took years to build up the river traffic, but it was built solidly, and it did more than any other one thing to settle the middle West."

÷ ÷ ÷  
Orleans had twice the tonnage of New York in 1843.

"As the boating business grew owners and officers took great pride in building boats that could outrun all others. The average citizen's natural love of sport cropped out in his interest in the speed in which a passenger boat could make the trip from New Orleans to Louisville, the foot of the falls of the Ohio. Passengers going aboard one of these boats would at first suffer great fear lest in the trial of speed with a rival boat safety would be forgotten and disaster follow. But it was likewise told that these same passengers would urge the captain on to put on more steam, risk explosion, snags, collision, anything rather than suffer defeat."

÷ ÷ ÷  
The story is told of an old lady who shipped numerous tierces of lard to New Orleans, the product of her large farm. Once she took passage on the same boat on which her lard was shipped and exhorted the captain, as she paid her passage, that he should be careful and not take the risk of racing. The captain promised faithfully that he would safeguard the boat, cargo and passengers in every way possible. But after the boat had reached the Mississippi another boat was seen to be gaining on them, and it soon came abreast and gave every indication of outdistancing them. The old lady grew excited with the rest of the passengers and seeking the captain inquired the cause of their opponent's speed. 'Madam,' he said, 'that boat is using a shipment of fat bacon for fuel.' 'Well,' said the old lady, 'just roll out those barrels of lard and feed them to the furnace. We don't want such a looking boat as that to beat us.'

÷ ÷ ÷  
"The golden age of river traffic was from about 1835 to 1880. By the last-named date railways had been built along the Mississippi to New Orleans and across the continent so that produce could be shipped in any direction, depending upon the demand. In 1842 the tonnage of the basin of the Mississippi is given as 126,278, while that of New York for the same year was only 35,260, and all of Great Britain 82,606. The same year the amount paid out for transportation of the Mississippi and its tributaries amounted to \$13,618,000.

÷ ÷ ÷  
"In the boat building in 1843, forty-five steamboats were built at Cincinnati, with a tonnage of 12,035; thirty-five boats at Louisville, with a tonnage of 7,406, and at Pittsburgh twenty-five boats, with a tonnage of 4,347. According to statistics, New

÷ ÷ ÷  
There was great rivalry among the boats over making the best record between New Orleans and the foot of the falls of the Ohio. The fastest time on record was made by the A. L. Shotwell in 1853, when it recorded between ports 4 days, 9 hours and 19 minutes. The next best was made the same year by the Eclipse in 4 days, 9 hours and 31 minutes. The Reindeer made it in 4 days, 19 hours and 45 minutes and the Belle Key in 4 days and 20 hours. These close figures tell the story of the strife to win what was called 'The Horn.'

The continuation of this story will appear in this column tomorrow.



In a list of the early postoffices of the state in the state library stands the name of Mt. Duval, but no clue as to the location of the postoffice. Through the efforts of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society it has been recently learned that Mt. Duval was the original name of Rockport, and that it was given in honor of the Hon. William R. Duval of Kentucky, who served in Congress and was a territorial Governor of Florida. He was a friend of Daniel Grass, first settler of Rockport, who named the new settlement in his honor.

÷ ÷ ÷

George Honig of Evansville, sculptor and officer of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, has been making an investigation of the Spencer county families at the time of the residence of the Lincolns in the county. Mr. Honig has found that the first teacher in the county was Susan Tucker, daughter of Atha Meeks. That Jonathan Prosser, a teacher in Martin county in 1818 and 1819, settled at Newtonville, Spencer county, some time in 1819. He taught school near what is now Lincoln City and Santa Claus and in Grandview from 1820 to 1835. He was buried in Lamar's graveyard, called "New Hope," west of Newtonville. His grandchildren are now educators in Minneapolis, Minn. Jonathan Prosser came out to Indiana from New York state, where he married Catherine Simmons, daughter of the man who later founded the Simmons Hardware Company of St. Louis.

÷ ÷ ÷

Another citizen of the county at this time, according to Mr. Honig, was John Proctor, who was graduated from Harvard University in 1813 and settled in Rockport about 1818 or 1819. Mason Jones who, with his wife, Nancy Ashby, came from Virginia, settled in Rockport about 1809. His children settled in the neighborhood of what are now Lincoln City and Gentryville about 1815. They married into the McCoy family, which had come to the county in 1812.

÷ ÷ ÷

At the time of the Lincolns' residence in Indiana, Mr. Honig says, Grandview was a very busy river port town, with hundreds of farmers coming in with their produce for shipping

and to haul back commodities to the stores of the little towns as far north as Huntingburg and Jasper. He says that Lincoln often hauled hoop poles and other things to Grandview for the Gentry boats, which were later taken on to New Orleans. "He also came to this place to see the trading boats in the years when 'thrice dozen chickens would buy a barrel of flour.' This work is an example of what is being done by this society in the effort to show the type of people who were neighbors and associates of the Lincolns, and among whom Lincoln acquired some education.

÷ ÷ ÷

Mr. Honig says that he has evidence that Abraham Lincoln would go a long distance to meet people and that he undoubtedly visited the "corn cracker" mills on Big Sandy and Honey creeks, the sites of which may still be seen. These mills are mentioned in the "History of Warrick, Spencer and Dubois Counties." As early as 1817, Uriah Lamar started a small grist mill or "corn cracker" on Big Sandy creek, though the mill was operated by horse power with a leather band. The band was made from a raw bull's hide, which yet contained the hair, and was cut out in a circle beginning at the center of the hide. This mill was operated five or six years. James Norton, near Honey creek, also conducted an early "corn cracker." It was operated by a sweep and cogs.

÷ ÷ ÷

Mr. Honig mentions Lincoln's visiting Basye's store at New Hope "to meet and mingle with the people." This store was a short distance from Grandview and was stocked with calico, sugar, tea, coffee, ammunition, saddles, leather, harness, etc. It is said that the proprietor took in exchange for his wares furs, skins, feathers, produce, etc., which he at stated seasons shipped off to market and then laid in a new stock of goods.

÷ ÷ ÷

Daniel Grass, mentioned above, came from Bardstown, Ky. He made the first survey of land where Rockport now stands in 1807. A few years later he came and built a log house on his land. The place was noted at that time as the "Hanging Rock" and was known to early hunters who crossed the river from Kentucky to hunt in its forests.

# Industrial School Planned

Souvenirs Will Be Manufactured for Sale to Visitors in Park at Rockport;

**Special Correspondence**

ROCKPORT, Ind. — Rockport's Lincoln Pioneer Village will be completed within a few days and ready for its dedication on July 4.

The village, located in a corner of the big city park and surrounded by a high stockade, is the realization of a dream of George Honig, sculptor and Lincoln lore authority.

Sponsored by the Spencer County Historical Society, with Mrs. Bess Ehrman, president, and built as a relief project, the village duplicates log cabins, stores, public buildings, churches and schools that stood in Spencer County between 1816 and 1830, the years that Abraham Lincoln lived there.

When finally completed it will consist of some 22 buildings—all constructed of logs.

Plans are being made by Honig to organize an industrial school in the park adjoining the village. Here souvenirs will be manufactured for sale in the village and students will receive practical instruction in various crafts.

**Nancy Hanks Doll**

The Nancy Hanks Doll, designed several years ago by Honig to represent pioneer womanhood, probably will be made in the proposed industrial school.

The doll, dressed in the drab clothes, has finely chiseled features to represent a stern character. It was awarded a prize in a national doll show several years ago.

Honig also has outlined plans for miniature hand-cut clapboard shingles with a pen and ink sketch showing the famous rail-splitter, Lincoln, making them.

This same type of hand-split shingles was used to roof all the buildings in the village. Weaving



of small coverlets and linsey-woolsey cloth will also be revived.

Work was started on the village four months ago.

**Hauled 3000 Logs**

"For a time the workers had a hard job getting used to swinging axes like their forefathers did in pioneer days," Honig said, "but by the time we got the first cabin up they were really acquainted with their tools."

Some of the men began as loggers, hauling more than 3000 logs donated for the village, from surrounding Spencer County farms to the park.

Others started digging a long trench around the village for planting the stockade poles. Six men had the task of splitting huge logs up into shingles.

One complete two-story log cabin taken from the old Gentry farm was donated by Henry Hock. It was moved to the village and its

tottering walls strengthened and repaired.

**Interesting Buildings**

Some of the points of interest about the village include:

Judge John Pitcher's law office where Lincoln trudged 17 miles to borrow a law book.

The home of Daniel Grass, a meeting place for early settlers.

The old Pigeon Baptist Church where Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lincoln and young Abe worshiped. The father and son helped build it in 1823.

The home of James Gentry Sr.,

neighbors of the Lincolns during their residence in Spencer County.

Daniel Grass's Store, the first one in Rockport.

Spencer County's first courthouse.

A house for exhibits of pioneer industries.

Tom Lincoln's cabin.

**Replica of Blockhouse**

A blockhouse similar to those that once stood in Spencer County at Enterprise, Grandview, Newington and the mouth of Anderson Creek. It was at this creek that Lincoln worked as a ferryman.

The Gentry Store, William Jones' Store, and William Bayse Store, and a lean-to cabin and the Grigsby Cooper Shop.

Not only have the cabins been built much in the same manner that early settlers constructed theirs, but materials have been confined to those available to the pioneers.

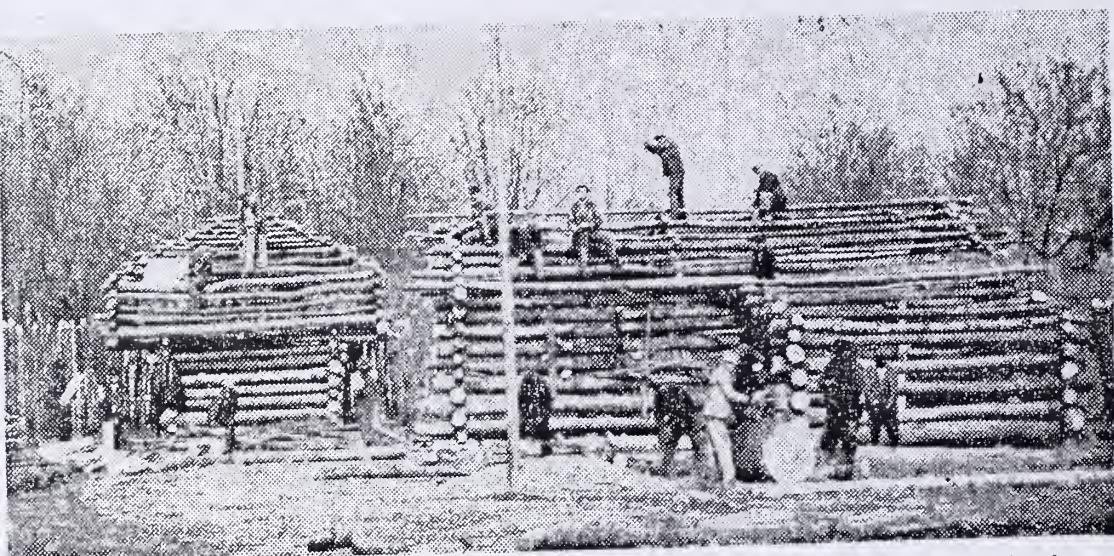
For instance, there are no hinges on the heavy stockade gate. It is swung on a pivot pole, with wood bearings.

Wooden peg hinges have been painstakingly carved out for the

cabin doors. Wooden pegs are used instead of nails.

Chimneys are stone only part way up, then constructed of small branches, mud plastered.

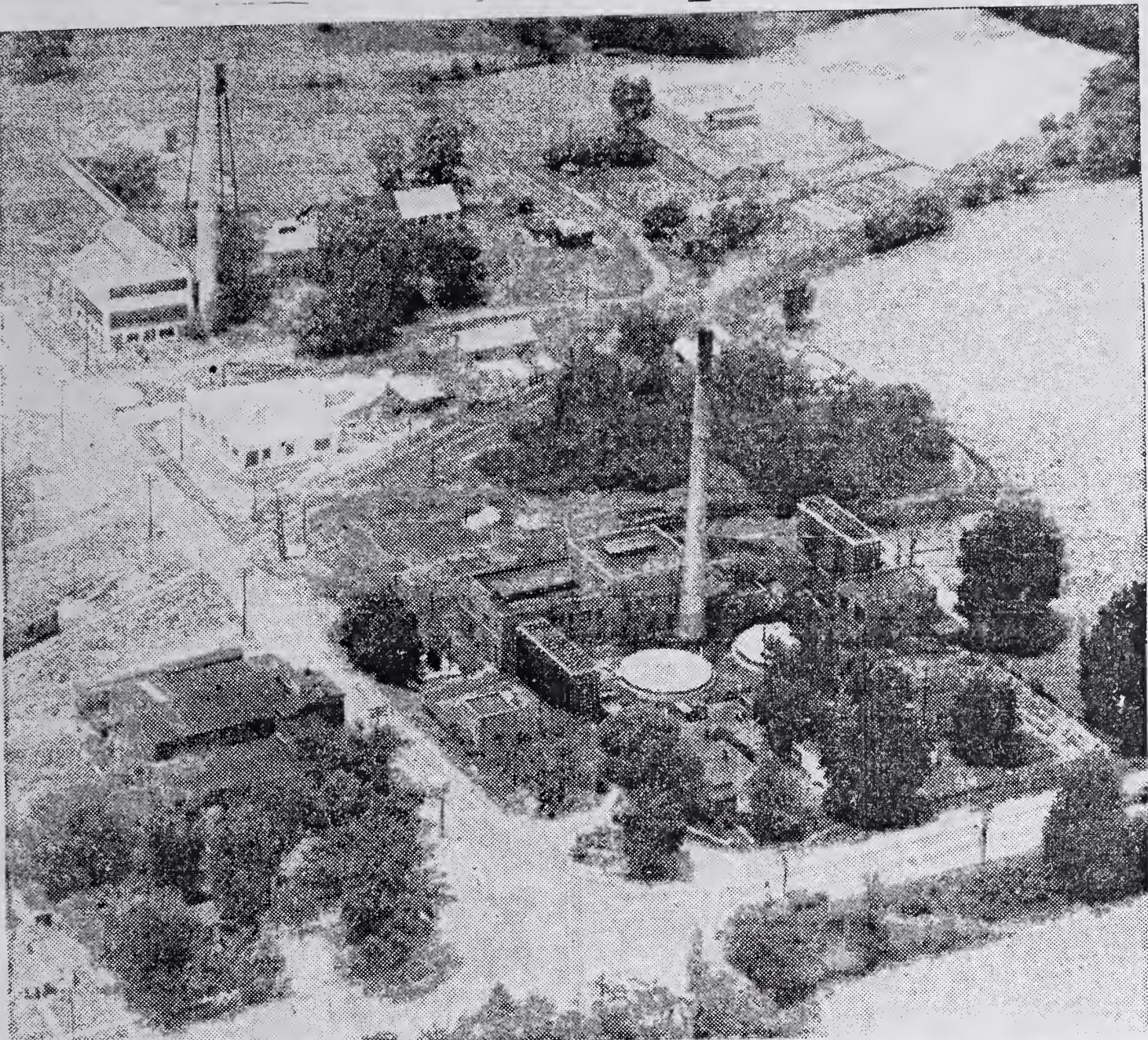
Now, with the dedication date nearing, many Spencer County residents are searching attics and barn lofts for pioneer furniture with which to furnish the village.



Above is a scene at Rockport's Lincoln Village as FERA workers put the finishing touches on the blockhouse and a large log cabin.

Left is Mrs. Bess V. Ehrman, president of the Spencer County Historical Society which is sponsoring the project. George Honig, Rockport sculptor, who designed the village, is pictured on the right.





This aerial view of the water works company at Rockport was taken by Courier and Press Photographer Spercel Fayne while flying in a Culver Flying Service plane.

The power plant is privately owned and managed by W. H. Baker. It supplies power to Grandview, Newtonville, Chrisney and Ristow.

## THE ROCKPORT PAGEANT

One day every two years Rockport, picturesque Indiana village on the Ohio, is the focal for Lincoln lore. Then the silence of years is broken and its century and more old curtain lifts to a stage on which actors parade to remind of Lincoln. Hundreds of them appear, as if from the mists of antiquity, wearing the quaint garb of an earlier era, and for a few hours they turn back time's clocks to chronicle the happenings long ago.

Next Friday is the day, and the shelving meadow that borders the river the stage. From Rockport and Grandview and all the back country the actors will come, to play their parts in the stirring drama, and then with the falling curtain retire for a biennial period. There the lanky youth took passage for New Orleans 102 years ago, a voyage that was to set his awkward feet toward the White House, and a replica of his flat-boat is used in the pageant.

Rockport's "When Lincoln Went Flatboating on the Ohio" is the American Oberammergau, and those who portray the life story of the Son of Man and his way to calvary find a counterpart here in the cast that treads the measure at the southern Indiana town. They are plain people, many of them, who throughout the two years go' about their homely duties, to emerge for one day. It is a labor of love, of veneration, of homage, and they approach the task in that mood.

From the stage one may look into Kentucky, the state that wombed the child they worship as a man along the markedly successive steps to immortality. The distance holds an old log cabin where Lincoln was tried by a magistrate for operating a ferry without license, and nearby a briar-tangled rural burial ground hides the grave of a youthful sweetheart, who turned from the pleading swain to wed another, and died long before her other lover climbed to fame.

Northeastward a few miles is the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother, whose once-forgotten tomb is now a shrine, and whose name, humble country woman though she was, is repeated wherever the mothers of famous men are listed. She died in the rude environment of that wilderness home, and fell asleep too soon to glimpse the awakening of her son, destined to write his name brighter than any since Washington on the nation's sky.

## DEVELOPMENT IS AIDED BY CLUB

### Tourist Park Got Thru Aid of Society

ROCKPORT, Ind., April 28—This community's progress is largely due to the Rockport Improvement society, an organization of loyal citizens who have banded together for the purpose of boosting their home town. This society has been instrumental in establishing one of the best tourist camps bordering on the river with the stately bluffs as a protecting background.

The camp is known as "Rocky Side Park." In this park is the old historic river landing, now in disuse, where Abraham Lincoln left with Allen Gentry of Rockport in 1828 on his flatboat trip down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

One of the best equipped ferries on the Ohio river has since taken the place of the old ferry and is operated by the Miller Navigation company.

# INDIANA GROUP DEDICATES OLD LINCOLN TOWN

## Family Home Site Is Rebuilt; Opened.

BY PHILIP KINSLEY.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Rockport, Ind., July 4.—[Special.]—The Lincoln pioneer village was dedicated here today as southern Indiana's celebration of Independence day.

It is a straggling row of log houses of the kind that dotted this wilderness one hundred years ago. It was rebuilt and refurnished by the loving sacrifice of the citizens of this community, furnished from their attics. They besieged the old stockade today, recapturing the spirit and much of the actual atmosphere of the oxcart pioneers and the boyhood days of Lincoln.

### Lincoln's Formative Years.

This village is a fitting prelude to New Salem State Park, Ill., where Lincoln's young manhood was spent. Here, coming across the Ohio with his parents and sister at the age of 7, Lincoln spent what Carl Sandberg calls the "fourteen fiercely formative years" of his life. Indiana takes pride in this shaping. For fifteen years its local historians have been studying all the records and memories that throw light on that tall and lanky boy who seemed to follow some inner mandate rather than the common ways of boys and men.

Rockport thus becomes another shining spot in the long Lincoln trail, that begins in the cabin of his birth, across the river in Kentucky, follows the old roads through Spencer county, Ind., into the Sangamon country of Illinois, and then on to Springfield and Washington and a resting place in the deep heart of humanity everywhere.

### Belongs to Midwest.

Lincoln belongs to the world in truth, but he belongs peculiarly to this midwest prairie soil and these deep green woods and muddy rivers, where states marched to sturdy growth under the declaration of human independence that had been pressing through the dark soil of human history for two thousand years, the stirrings in Greece of Plato's time, the perfection in Jesus of Nazareth, and the common human way through Lincoln.

Today's pilgrimage began for many, most properly, at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, which lies only seventeen miles above Rockport. The "milk sickness" took her away from Abraham and Sarah only two years after Thomas Lincoln's restless wanderings had brought them into this new land.

### Nature's Own Temple.

The approach to this place has more simplicity than that to the lotus lake and the marble shrine of the Taj Mahal, where India's great king built his temple to human love. There is the same bordered rectangle of green, with grass instead of a lake, and bending wild flowers instead of ordered gardens. The temple is God's first temple instead of one built by human hands. The priests are the birds and the squirrels that sing and play in the ancient dark woods. The bob white instead of a Mohammedan prayer and the sunlight instead of the swinging censer.

No jewels and lace like marble here. A few days ago a rail fence marked off the little green plot. Today it is wrought iron with the old plain wedge shaped headstone still there and the simple inscription—Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Lincoln, Oct. 5, 1818, aged 35 years. There are other stones around of forgotten pioneers.

### Lincoln Starts for Illinois.

The Lincoln cabin, now blown to dust, was only half a mile away, and it was to this grave and that of his sister, Sarah, near by, that Lincoln, just 21 years old, paid his farewell visit in that fall morning in 1830. Then he took the wilderness road toward Illinois and new shores. The old road may be seen today winding through the deep green of summer.

Near the grave the harvest hands are at work in the hay fields. There is nothing around here but the sights and sounds with which the boy Lincoln was familiar, the tough nature with which he hardened his sinews,

the poised and ~~indecisive~~ nature that he became a part of, the mysterious nature that called him somewhere else, that led him to books by the log fire as soon as the day's work was done.

### Reading and Dreaming.

They tell of this careless rough looking boy, throwing himself on the floor or hiding in the fields with a book, when others went hunting or fishing. He was lazy, they say, yet he would walk seventeen miles to Rockport to borrow a book from John Pitcher, a lawyer.

A cool, shady trail leads through the woods from the grave to the homesite. Here something unique is going on, the building of a monument that may have more significance to America than all the more conventional monuments and shrines. It is a replica in bronze of the foundation and fireplace of the original home, where the family was sheltered through the long cold winters, and where Nancy Lincoln died, telling her children to be kind to each other and to "praise God."

### Work of Indianans.

This is the work of the Indiana Lincoln Memorial union, distinct from the Rockport village project. It is being built in a little open rise among the trees, surrounded by a low stone wall, with stone benches for pilgrims to sit on and ponder. It consists only of four foundation logs, cast in bronze so perfectly that ax marks and holes and rotten places look like a real log.

At one end of this open square the stone fireplace rises, also in bronze. The whole piece, weighing eight tons, was cast in Munich, costing \$16,000. This also is a contribution of citizens. It is to lie open to the winds and storms, heat and snow, for the next two hundred years at least. It may, in one sense, be looked upon as not only the Lincoln home foundation, but the monument to all the pioneers of America, the beginnings of a new home for the restless American spirit. This is to be dedicated on July 14.

### Typical Country Church There.

Down the road a little way is the old Pigeon Creek church, where Tom Lincoln and his wife and children used to go to hear the hardshell Baptist preachers. The old log church, which the Lincolns helped support by contributions of corn and produce, is gone, but a little square white structure, typical of country churches, takes its place. The same old hard wooden benches are there, an old lamp hanging from the ceiling and a baseburner in the center of the room.

A fruit jar holds some wilted flowers and a big dusty Bible adorns the pine pulpit. They tell of the powerful sermons that the Rev. Josiah Cabbage who came to church bareheaded and

barerooted, used to preach. The old hitching rail is there and one of the foundation stones of the original church. The road that the Lincolns traveled, now sunken and overgrown with brush and weeds, is still visible. The grave of Sarah is here, also that of one William Oskins and other pioneers. It was Oskins that traded a four year old horse for Tom Lincoln's last forty acres as the family packed up to go to Illinois.

Oskins also got a wardrobe from the Lincoln home, made by the carpenter father, which is now in the home of a grandson in Gentryville.

Gentryville and Lincoln City, once prosperous little trading centers, now have become just crossroads towns of less population than in Lincoln's day. Everybody of age in these parts knows something about the Lincolns. All through this section the people have become more and more Lincoln-minded in the last few years. The neglected graveyard has become a state park of 15,000 acres.

#### Visitors Are Welcomed.

From these quiet places the celebrants found themselves in a half hour amid the turbulent, beautiful, hot crowds of Rockport's banner flying streets. Amid parades, floats, bands of young Indians, pretty girls arrayed in an "escort of honor" and groups of reception committee citizens, the visitors were soon made to feel at home.

Winding up from the historic landing where in 1816 the Lincolns crossed the river, the parade went out to the city park. There the new village has been built behind a stockade and protected by a blockhouse. In the neighboring woods a band of boys was playing Indian realistically, and the sound of warwhoops and tom-toms came across the fields.

#### Recall McGuffey Readers.

A stadium had been erected for the occasion, also a brush arbor for the meeting of the Indiana McGuffey club. Their program was held in front of the pioneer village school, with J. Roy Strickland of Owensville the master of ceremonies. The textbooks of William Holmes McGuffey were used extensively throughout mid-western schools in the early days.

While this program was under way the visitors were peering in at the doorways of the various houses of the village. Descendants of pioneers were making this a living drama, impersonating the early characters. Judge Pitcher was in his law office. The boy Lincoln was turning a grindstone near by. Women were spinning and carding wool, rocking babies in the little low cradles where many of them were first rocked, cooking over the open stone fireplaces. The old wooden wheeled ox cart was out on the common. The windlass wells were there ~~with gourds~~ <sup>hand</sup>.



P R O G R A M

# Lincoln Country Summer Festival



ROCKPORT, INDIANA

June 28 Through  
Saturday, July 4

A Celebration Every Day

Sponsored by the Spencer County Historical Society,  
Rockport Chamber of Commerce, Rockport Kiwanis  
Club, Rockport Park Board and Southwestern In-  
diana Civic Association.

Held in a beautiful park, with shade, good drinking water, tables  
and benches, free, for picnic parties. Also free parking space.  
In the park is the unusual Lincoln Memorial, "The Lincoln Pioneer  
Village", designed and built by Mr. George Honig, artist and  
sculptor, with FERA and WPA labor. Only 10c admittance charge  
to tour the Village.

No admittance charge to the park.

## PROGRAM

### SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2:30 P. M.

In the replica of the "Old Pigeon Baptist Church" in the Lincoln Pioneer Village, a pioneer church service, sponsored by a committee from the Rockport Baptist church composed of Mina Cook, Louise Atchinson, George Brown, Dell Thurman, Rockport, and Mrs. Gertrude Baker, Grandview.

Invocation—Rev. J. F. Rake, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Evansville Congregation Singing old time hymns.

Address—Elder W. C. Arnold, Pastor of Primitive Baptist Church, Crossville, Ill.

Prayer—Rev. J. F. Gettings, Pastor of the Rockport Baptist Church Congregation Singing

Benediction—Rev. J. F. Rake

Deacon Meeks will pass the hat, just outside the church door following the service.

Admittance free to Village from 1 to 3 p. m. to those attending service

Following the service visitors are urged to enjoy picnic suppers in the Village, where free Chase & Sanborn Coffee is to be served, made by Louis F. Halbruge, noted coffee maker of Rockport. Sandwiches and other foods to be had on grounds.

### MONDAY, JUNE 29

Home-coming celebration in the homes for those who are our visitors throughout the day.

8:00 p. m.—Showing of Historic Films in Assembly Room of Court House. These Films are supplied by the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana and through the courtesy of Mr. Ben Branch, local agent. This fine evening's entertainment is open to the public without admittance charge. The following films will be shown: "Stephen Foster's Life and Music", "A Beautiful Film of Joyce Kilmer's Trees", "Washington—The Heart of the Nation", "In Old New Orleans," and "A Night in the Jungle."

### TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Tour of the many historic places in Rockport and Spencer County. Arranged by citizens in private cars. An all-day tour with picnic lunches.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

In Rockport City Park at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the Rockport Kiwanis Club sponsors a picnic for Kiwanis Clubs of the Tri-State and their families. Following the picnic dinner a short program will be given in the "Old Pigeon Baptist Church" in the Lincoln Pioneer Village, and a tour made of the Village.

A free will offering taken at the gate of the Village.

### THURSDAY, JULY 2

Dedication of Rockport City Park Marker, 2:30 p. m. at City Park.

A gift from Ex-Mayor Weiss. Historic marker giving date of purchase of park and names of Mayor and City Council when purchase was made.

Erected near main entrance to park on north east side.

Mr. John Posey, Master of Ceremonies.

Invocation—Rev. Wilbur M. Allen, Pastor of Rockport Trinity Lutheran Church

Opening Remarks—Mayor Harvey Chinn

Music—Rockport High School Band, Mr. Downey Kessner, Director.

Address—Mr. Paul Schmidt, Attorney of Evansville

Unveiling of Marker—Arthur Martin, Evansville

Introduction of Ex-Mayor Weiss and former members of the City Council, by

Mrs. Nora Rimstidt

Rockport's Acceptance of the Marker from Mr. Weiss, by Mayor Harvey Chinn

Cornet Solo—Robert Atkinson

Music—Rockport High School Band

Introduction of Mr. George Honig, who invites guests to Lincoln Pioneer Village

Benediction—Rev. J. F. Gettings, Pastor Rockport Baptist Church

Mr. Loney Parsley in charge of Parking

## PROGRAM

FRIDAY NIGHT, JULY 3

8:00 p. m.—Rockport High School Auditorium

Music—By Rockport High School Orchestra

Introduction of Mr. Karl K. Knecht, and Miss Alice Hebert—By Mrs. C. D. Ehrman  
"Lincoln's First Great Sorrcw"—an episode of Lincoln's Indiana Life  
By Miss Alice Hebert. A one-act play in three scenes.

Introduction to the play in song—Mrs. Ben Smith

Scene 1—Store of Col. William Jones, 1818

Characters—Rachel Jones, wife of Col. Jones—Marie Kramer.  
Elizabeth Crawford, wife of Josiah Crawford—Ruby Seay  
Sam Crawford, Josiah's son—Roy Bauman  
Mrs. Rueben Grigsby, Sr.—Mrs. Claude Snyder

Scene II—Home of Thomas Lincoln, 1818

Characters—Nancy Hanks Lincoln—Grace Pattie  
Thomas Lincoln—G. W. Kochersperger  
Sarah Lincoln—Esther Kessner  
Abe Lincoln—Karl Hassel

Scene III—Forest near the Lincoln Home, six years later, 1824.

Characters—Thomas Lincoln—G. W. Kochersperger  
Dennis Hanks—Oscar Boultonghouse  
Fifteen Year old Abe Lincoln—James Balderson  
Rev. Elkins—Claude Snyder

Scene IV—Looking into the future

Characters—President Lincoln—William Parsley

Closing with Song—Mrs. Charles Salm, accompanied by Mrs. O. P. M. Thurman  
Hartwell Quartette—Pearl, Walter, and Effie Hartwell, and Richard Spaulding  
Singing the Kentucky and Indiana State Songs—"My Old Kentucky Home"  
and "On the Banks of the Wabash."

Group of Old-Time Dances in Costume—The "Minuet of 1776"—Danced by  
Lucille Richards, Mary Guard Richards, Madge Cadick and Lois Bauman,  
Music by Alberta Tabelman

Down to Rousters—Picneer Dance of 1820—Danced by  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Claude  
Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Spain, Mr. and Mrs. John Lakey, Mr. and Mrs.  
Louis Kramer, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wright, Fred Kehrer, Carrie Kehrer, Loney  
Parsley and Maud M. Hay

Quadrille, Waltz, Schottische—Period of 1890—Danced by Mrs. Edgar Miller Mrs.  
Henry Bretz, Mrs. Raymond Bretz, Mr. Karl Kramer, Mr. Louis Kramer, Mr.  
Robeit Napper. Music by Mrs. Lucy Fueister, Mr. Downey Kessner and Mr.  
William Nuetzel

Waltz of Today—Danced by Eugenia Basham, Jean Vittitow, Ellen Lindsey, Helen  
Gentry, Virginia Sargent, Martha Kessner, Mary Kessner, Ellen B. Parsley, Eva  
Leola Jones, Thelma Jones, Martel Young, Jeanette Kincaid, Louise Chapman,  
Mason Jean Cochran. Music by Alberta Tabelman

Vocal Solo—Jean Vittitow. Solo Dance—Virginia Sargent

Music to Close—Rockport H. S. Orchestra

Directors—Bess Ehrman, Lucille Richards. Chairman Reception Com-  
mittee—Carrie V. Halbruge. Chairmen of Young Lady Ushers—Lucille  
Richards, Elsie Feigel, Edith Brothers. Stage Managers, Shirley Thorpe,  
Sheldon Thorpe and Joe Statler.

## PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JULY 4

9:00 to 10:00 a. m.—Childrens' Hour in front of Amphitheatre, under direction of  
Lucille Richards, Ethel Lawburg, Essie Lee Williams and Charles Fay

10:00 a. m.—Parade "The March of Progress"—Down Main Street to City Park,  
Passing in front of the grand stand—Hilbert Bennett and Claude Snyder,  
Parade Chairmen. Loney Parsley, Marshal of Parade

Tours of Village and Picnic Dinner until 2:00 o'clock p. m.  
Dinner served on grounds by Rockport M. E. Ladies' Aid

Program—2:00 p. m.—Given in Band Stand in front of Amphitheatre  
Mr. A. P. Eberlin, Evansville, President of S. I. C. A., Master of Ceremonies

Call to Attention—Cornet Solo—Robert Atkinson

Music—Rockport High School Band, Mr. Downey Kessner, Director

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Mr. A. P. Eberlin—Mrs. C. D. Ehrman,  
President of Spencer County Historical Society

Invocation—Rev. Wilbur M. Allen, Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockport

A Word of Welcome—Mayor Harvey T. Chinn, Rockport

Greetings from Kentucky to Indiana—Mr. Thomas Finley, Madisonville, Ky.

Reception to President and Mrs. Lincoln, on the platform

Address—Hon. Sherman Minton, U. S. Senator

"What Spencer County Gave to Lincoln"—Dr. C. B. Coleman, Director Indiana  
Historical Society

Music—"Swiss Hill Billies" of Tell City

Address—"Educational Value of Historical Memorials" by Prof Ross Lockridge,  
Indiana Director Federal Writers' Project

Music—Prof. Donavon Hichman's Band, Owensboro, Ky.

Address—Hon. Clifford Townsend, Lt.-Governor of Indiana and Democratic  
Nominee for Governor

Music—Hartwell Colored Quartette

Address—Hon. Raymond Springer, Republican Nominee for Governor of Indiana  
Dedication of New Buildings in Lincoln Pioneer Village, Corn Cracker Mill and  
Lake, a PWA Project, by Mr. Wayne Coy, Indiana Director of PWA

Following the Dedication of the Lake, 10 Bathing Beauties on the Island in the  
Lake, enter the Lake—Ellen B. Parsley, Marjorie Parsley, Thelma Lee  
Nuetzel, Mary Jo Kellams, Mary Margaret Fortune, Helen Gentry, Rita  
Savage, Geneva Fortune, Mary Elinor Hamilton, Dorothy Powers

Introduction of Mr. George Honig

Remarks—Mr. William Fortune, Indianapolis

Remarks—Mr. Lew O'Bannon, Corydon, Indiana

Music—Rockport High School Band

Benediction—Rev. Lee S. Jarrett, Pastor Rockport M. E. Church

Three Bureaus of Information on grounds, with 42 young ladies in charge,  
under direction of Lucille Richards, Elsie Feigel, and Edith Brothers.

ROCKPORT

DRAWER 11A

TOWNS-LINCOLN-ROCKPORT

